

THE **Two Ands**
and
The Seven Seals

AND AND

“When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered, that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.”

Saint John 2:22

BEN HOWARD

THE **Two Ands**
and
The Seven Seals

AND AND

“When therefore he was
risen from the dead, his
disciples remembered,
that he had said this
unto them; and they
believed the scripture,
and the word which
Jesus had said.”

BY

SAINT JOHN 2:22
BEN HOWARD

©1998 by Ben Howard

All rights reserved. This book cannot be sold, nor in any way be used
for the soliciting of funds.

All scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version Bible

Published by the Sound Of Liberty
7286 Hwy 53W, Dawsonville, Georgia 30534 U.S.A.

www.SoundOfLiberty.org
TwoAnd@soundofliberty.org

THE TWO ANDS
AND
THE SEVEN SEALS

*Messages Preached August 23 - October 04, 1998
With Excerpts From
The [Interpreted] Book of Revelation (first printing in 1980)
Dawsonville, Georgia U.S.A.*

THE TWO ANDS AND THE SEVEN SEALS

(A forethought: The message you will be reading in this book has a continuing thought based upon a verse from one of the books of the Bible, namely, John 2:22. Within this verse, two *ands* are written; and the two *ands* connect and complete the believing action of the disciples mentioned in the scripture. Some readers may find the thought strange of these two small words; however, as you read and allow your heart and mind to come to understand the significance of the depth of this scripture, perhaps you will even discover that you have a place of action based upon this scripture, as our heavenly Father, through the Lord Jesus Christ speaks to us.)

Let's begin reading from the Book of John 2:22. I will start with a thought that may sound rather strange unless you are acquainted with some of the end time happenings. I want to speak about, *The Two Ands and The Seven Seals*, with John 2:22 as the text verse. It says, "*When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; (As we continue to read the remainder of this scripture, please notice the two *ands*, as they are placed in this particular scripture.) and they believed the scripture, (the first and), and (the second and of this verse), the word which Jesus had said.*" I am placing emphasis on the two *ands* in this verse for a particular thought. I want to tell you about something that took place some years back concerning this Bible I hold in my hand, and a dream that has spiritual meaning. This Bible was given to me by the church in South Carolina. There are certain places that I always read and mark with a pen when I first receive a new Bible, and I was reading through the New Testament and taking note of the places that I wanted specially marked. The first day, I read Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Then on the second day, I read John. The night before I read John, I had a dream. Many times the Lord reveals things to us in dreams, and sometimes He does not.

In this particular dream, there was a granite-type monument right down here in the woods. It was snow white in color, and it was in the shape of an M. It was about six feet tall, I suppose, and three or four feet wide, or about forty inches wide. It looked as if it was a little more than three feet, but a little less than four feet. So, I say just about forty inches. Where the M came around at the top there were in very black letters (the monument was snow white), but in very black letters the word **AND** was written on one side of the M, and on the other part of the M was written the next **AND**. When I woke up, I thought that was kind of a strange dream. I thought it probably was not from the Lord, be-

cause I could not gather anything out of it that would seem to connect with the scriptures. I just kind of pushed the thought of the dream away. The next morning, I got up and started reading in the Book of John. I made coffee, and was sitting at the table drinking coffee and reading. Then a strange thing happened. In John 2:22, I was reading, casually reading along like this in Verse 22, "*When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; (concerning the resurrection), AND they believed the scripture; AND the word which Jesus had said.*" As I read that, the two *ands* began to rise from the page. They would rise from the page and become larger in size, and then they would return back to the page. I said within me, "That is very strange indeed;" suddenly, my mind went back to my dream of the white M shaped monument with the two *ands* written on it. The first *and* is here in this scripture – "*And they believed the scripture.*" Also, the second *and* is here in this scripture – "*and the word which Jesus said (now is saying).*" Therefore, this profound scripture signifies that there is more to the Word than just the written scripture. This Bible is the body of the Word, but it is the Spirit of the Word that makes it live. We can use our own bodies as an example for this point. We are body, soul, and spirit. Our flesh is the first *and*, (with the inner man, the deep soul and spirit) being the second *and*. The second *and* (the strong soul and spirit) brings to life the first *and*, which of course is our body. Certainly this is a thought over which to rejoice. Now we have a fresh, new Message for the beginning of this new and exciting era of the sounding of the last trump of God.

I preached at a funeral the other day, and I told them about the inner man. I said, "The Bible says that we go back to the dust from whence we came." This is in no way speaking of the inner man. The inner man did not come from the dust. The Bible says that the Spirit of man came from God and will go back to God. This reference is verified by Ecclesiastes 12:7.

The book I hold in my hand before you now, this Holy Bible, is the body of the Word. It is the body of the Word, and is dead, or basically useless without the Spirit of God giving it life. Just as your spirit brings life to your natural body, also, the powerful Spirit of God brings life to this body of the Word – the words in this Holy Bible. Therefore, the Word without the Spirit is dead. Our Bible tells us, "The letter killeth, but the Spirit of God giveth life," and the Spirit of the Word is the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are going to study the meaning of the seven seals from the Book of Revelation throughout this message. God said He would open them in the last day, and they are written. Also, seven thunders are included in the Book of Revelation, Chapter 10. However, these seven thunders are not written. For when the seven thunders spoke, or uttered their voices in Chapter 10, John said, "I was about to write, then a voice from heaven said, "Write them not." Therefore the written seals, spoken of in Revelation, Chapter 6, are the first *and*. The un-

written thunders spoken of in Revelation, Chapter 10, are the second *and*. And it is the second *and* that brings forth the interpretation of the seals.

As I sat there looking at those two *ands* rising from the page and returning to the page, I realized that the Lord was calling my attention to His voice. I knew He was calling my attention to something important. We are serving a living God, and all too often, people look at God and the Bible as a casual thing. However, God is supernatural. He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above anything that we can ask or even think of. There is power in the supernatural realm of God. When we go to church, our attendance is not like going to a social club or somewhere to just pass the time away. We do not attend church on Sunday or any other day of the week merely to cause us to feel better about ourselves, or cause ourselves to look better in others eyes. This Word is alive. There is power in the Spirit of the Word, if you will receive the Spirit of the Word. The Bible says to lay hands on the sick and they will recover. This is what the Word says, but the Word will not do it without the Spirit. The Spirit of the Word is necessary to bring forth the promises of the Word. The first *and* says it, and the second *and* gets it done! "AND they believed the scripture, AND the word which Jesus said unto them. What is the second *and* to the Word? It is the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ. "And they believed the scripture" – believing the scripture by means of the second *and* is the only way that we will be able to receive from the Lord all that He is wanting us to know in this end time. This is the only path to follow in order to receive from the scripture the depth that is offered. You can scratch around on the surface of the Word and receive the natural Word. You may be able to preserve it in the gray matter of your brain, and even be able to quote many scriptures from memorization. However, I want to say to you that receiving the truest meaning of the scripture has to be received deeper than merely the gray matter of your brain. Many of us can learn to memorize and quote scriptures, which would allow us a command of the first *and*. However, the Spirit of the Word, none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, is absolutely vital to receiving the depth of the Word of God that is needed for this new millennium and the years remaining to us. Remember, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. The second *and* that the disciples began to understand and receive was revealed by the same Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, whom we have with us and among us in this time of history. As I speak these words, I speak them strongly and emotionally with concern and respect for those who will hear them and later read them.

"*And they believed the scripture.*" In order to receive and believe the second *and*, we must receive and believe the first *and*. Many people cannot believe the first *and*. They have difficulty believing that this Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God. Therefore, many of those same people, saved people who have complete faith in salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ have difficulty be-

believing there could be a second *and*, with deeper, revealed Word for our time in history now. The first *and* is believing all of the Word of God, and believing that it is the inspired Word. The Word of God is real in this last day. This simple statement is true because Jesus Christ is real. Within that first *and* of the Word of God, it was written that a virgin would conceive and bring forth a child. The promise of the birth of this child remained for seven hundred and twelve years. During that period of seven hundred and twelve years of time, this promised child was not born. However, when the second *and* – the Spirit of God – moved upon a virgin named, Mary, the angel of the Lord came to Mary and told her, "Thou hast found favor with God. Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus." (Luke 1:30-31) The Spirit of God came upon her, and that second *and* brought pregnancy to her womb; brought a new life within her body. Of course, when the time of her pregnancy was accomplished, she brought forth Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God. The written Word did not bring this to pass. The promise of this child remained just as a promise until the second *and* came, which was seven hundred and twelve years later. The prophet, Isaiah, had written about a virgin who would conceive. As prophetic and important as his writings were, still the writing of those words did not accomplish the pregnancy or delivery of this child. The Spirit of God moved upon this virgin named Mary, and the second *and* accomplished the promise. The second *and* is the Spirit of the Word, and Mary was made pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

As we continue with our thoughts, we will read from Luke 24:41-45. As we read each verse, our thought will be clearer. It says, "*And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of a honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them. And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.*"

Just as Mary received the Word after the Spirit of God moved upon her, these believers in this chapter of Luke also needed the Spirit of God to understand the words Jesus was speaking unto them. Spiritual understanding has to be given by our Lord Jesus Christ. In these verses, Jesus was speaking to the disciples about the Messiah and some of the things to happen after the Messiah appeared. These disciples could not understand the words He was speaking unto them, until He opened their understanding. The actions of Jesus asking for something to eat helped open their understanding. He was the Word in action there in front of their eyes. He even reminded them that these words He was speaking to them had to be fulfilled, or accomplished, because the very Law of Moses had spoken about Him; along with the prophets, and the psalms.

It was not necessary to cause these disciples, or believers, to feel inadequate about their doubts of Jesus, and what He was saying to them. They needed their understanding opened. They were human, just as we are human. As a minister of the Gospel, with human weaknesses, I cannot open your understanding; however our Lord Jesus Christ can open your understanding. Reading the Word of God is important. Receiving knowledge from merely reading the Word of God is good. However, knowledge alone is not enough. The Spirit of God is necessary to receive a revelation of the knowledge of the Word. As Paul preached the Word of God, he emphasized the Spirit of the Word, not just the letter of the Word. The body of the Word is a dead letter of the Word until the Holy Spirit is in your heart causing the Word to live, and give you spiritual direction.

Let's read what Paul wrote concerning the Spirit of the Word, in 2 Corinthians 3:3, "*Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink.*" Notice the words we have just read. The real Word is not written with ink, for where this Word is going to be, ink cannot get there. The Word, directed by the Holy Ghost is written in your heart. This is the second *and* – the Holy Ghost writing the Word in your heart. The Word not written with ink is the spoken Word, and is definitely the life of the Word. The first *and* of the Word is the body in which the second *and* lives.

Reading Verse 3 again, along with Verses 4-5, "*Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.*" Remember that Paul wrote in Philippians 4:13, "*I can do all things through Christ (through the anointing), which strengthened me.*" And, remember, even more importantly, Jesus' words in John 15:5, "*For without me ye can do nothing.*" Therefore, what can we do by having His Spirit within us? We can do all things. Amen.

I am reading Verse 6, now, from 2 Corinthians, Chapter 3. Please give special attention to this amazing scripture. Paul is writing about Jesus Christ, and he says, "*Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.*" Using the first *and*, I could cut you to pieces, for the written Word without the Spirit killeth. However, the life is not in the outer Word, but it is in the Spirit of the Word. Paul said that God made us able ministers, not of the letter of the Word, but of the Spirit. Preaching without the Spirit will spiritually kill. The Spirit of the Word is necessary to cause the letter of the Word to live. That first *and* will kill you. The second *and* is absolutely necessary to bring life. Hallelujah! When the Holy Ghost comes with you, a difference comes within you, too. The difference is the life of the living Word.

“My Word is Spirit.” “My Word is Life.” When Jesus spoke to the Pharisees, they would retort to Him, “But Moses said this, and Moses said that.” Jesus would reply to them, “Yes, I know what Moses said, but I say unto you.” He said, “My words are Spirit, and my words are life.” I want to show you something. The words of Jesus when He was here on this earth came out of His mouth and were not written, - *and* the disciples believed the scripture and the word which He said. Can you reach out and catch in your hand some of my spoken words and bring them back to me? You cannot do that, because the words are Spirit. Jesus said, “My words are Spirit and they are life.”

This Book we call our Holy Bible, this Book we as true believers hold dear to us is the body in which Jesus’ words live. Here is where the Spirit of the Word lives. Our body has a spirit within it. If our spirit departs from our body, we will die. Our physical body will die. But, remember, our spirit does not die. And just the same, the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wonderful Holy Ghost, is real and alive, and will breathe revealed life into the Words of this Holy Bible. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! He is a Savior. He is a healer. He is a redeemer. He is our King. The first *and* is a monument, a memorial, to what He has brought. Yes, this Holy Bible is a great monument, but the Word has to contain the Spirit. If you are receiving the Word without the Spirit, you are just a carnal man.

The Word of God is right. It says God has made us ministers, able ministers, of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit. The letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life. 2 Corinthians 3:17, “*Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*” Notice this verse does not say, “where the Bible is there is liberty.” The importance is, “where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.” Our precious Holy Bibles can be placed everywhere, physically speaking; and our spirits and the Holy Bible can continue to remain in bondage, as tightly bound as possible. But allow the Holy Spirit of God to come in, and you will have liberty.

“*And they believed the scripture.*” This is a must; for this is the first *and*. Believing the scripture alone has little value, unless you receive the Spirit that causes the Word to live. You must have both *ands* of the Word. When the seals in the Book of Revelation were opened, the written Word records the seals and tells about them. However, the seven thunders reveal the seals, - the unwritten Word. The Bible contains such a revealing reference to this promise in Matthew 13:47-52, with Verse 52 being the key. The Bible says when the seventh church age messenger comes, he will be “like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of treasure things new and old.” This messenger will bring forth out of his treasure both old and new things – the first *and* – along with the second *and*. I know within my heart, there are many believers who will receive this.

I was preaching in Powder Springs, Georgia, sometime back, in the basement

of a brother's home. The brother's name is Willie McGarity. It was sometime before this that my wife Joyce (who is now deceased) had dreamed about me. She had seen me in the dream opening my coat and placing an item inside, in the manner you would place an item inside your coat to protect it from damage, until you were in a safer place. She heard me say to her in the dream, "This is a corn grinder." In the dream she said to herself, "They don't know he has a corn grinder." Later, when I was preaching in Brother McGarity's basement of his home there in Powder Springs, I was reading and telling of this scripture and its meaning for us, as the bride of Jesus Christ, Joyce saw (in a vision) a hand take the corn grinder and begin to rub ears of corn against the corn grinder. She said the corn was being ground into fine meal, the finest meal, in order to be able to make the meal into a whole fresh cake. God was revealing the *old corn* and grinding it into a fine meal that could be mixed properly, baked, sliced to perfection, and eaten and digested to bring spiritual health and strength to the wife of the Lamb. Dried corn, in its regular form, cannot be mixed and formed into a cake. However, when it is finely ground and properly ground, the dried corn comes out in the perfect mixing form. The cake can be baked and then sliced to perfection by all the qualified members of the five fold ministry. This *corn* – this old and new from the treasure can be ministered to the wife. The *corn* is being ground and properly prepared, and the preserved *wine* is being poured. The best wine, the well-preserved wine, was served. It was saved until last. The marriage of the Lamb takes place with things old and things new from the great treasure of the revealed Word of God. The Word is Spirit and the Word is life. This Bible is only the body in which the spiritual Word lives. This Holy Bible is the first *and*, while the second *and* is the Word of life that Jesus Christ is presently giving unto His wife.

When John was on the isle called Patmos in 96 A.D., Revelation 5:1 tells us, "*And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.*" Please keep in your minds and your hearts that we are speaking of the two *ands* of John 2:22 and the seven seals of the Book of Revelation. The Book was written and sealed with seven seals. John said, in Verse 2, "*And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?*" There are angels who are able to reveal themselves to us, and to speak to us. John was on Patmos, and there was an angel, and this angel cried with a loud voice. The angel said, "Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?" Why would the angel ask this question? If the seals were not loosened and removed, then the Book could never be opened. This Book was like a scroll. In the days of John, scrolls were as the books of our day. For us in our day and time, we are accustomed to opening a book and reading. The most common type of reading for John's time was reading from a scroll. This scroll was rolled up and had seven pieces of tape on it. This is my way of describing

the picture. More clearly, this long roll of reading material was sealed up and secured with seven seals that held the scroll tightly together. John heard the angel say with a loud voice, "Who is worthy?" Verses 3-4 says, "*And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon,*" Having this Book opened and read must have been very important to John. He was a grown man, as we would say; yet, he began to cry. He was crying and disturbed because he wanted someone to be worthy to open this Book and read from it. It is not a sign of weakness for a grown man to cry. I believe grown men do cry.

John began to cry. He began to weep, because no one was found worthy. How are the seals going to be opened? No man is found worthy. This will help us to understand who we are and who Christ is and what He did. We are not worthy. God looked at everyone who had died and gone on to heaven. There was no one there worthy. He looked all over the earth, and under the earth. He could find no man worthy to open the Book. An angel could not open the Book. The one worthy to open the book had to be a kinsman, a redeemer. In the Old Testament, when someone needed to be redeemed or bought back, the redeemer or the one who could reclaim had to be of close kin and able to bring about the redemption. Jesus is close kin and He is able. Therefore, John began to cry. The church could not be restored back like Paul saw it, or as it was in that early age, unless someone was found. Thank God, there was a Lamb found to be worthy to do this job – to redeem us, to buy us back. The body of Christ would never have existed to be baptized into if this wonderful Lamb of God had not been found.

Through the seven church ages, God allowed the wheat and the tares to grow together. For our day and time, however, He has cleared up for us this mystery of God. The great mystery is the route or the journey that the church took from Pentecost until now. We are going to show you that when John was about to write this, a voice from heaven said, "Seal it up and write it not, for it has to be revealed in the end time." This is a paraphrase of the words; however, the meaning is the same. John wept much, for no man was found worthy. However, notice the words John hears from Verse 5, "*And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.*" The Lion of the Tribe of Juda, the Root of David, is our Lord Jesus Christ. He alone prevailed to open the Book. When did He do this? He did this when He went to the cross, and gave His life. Please notice the choice that God gave Him. Jesus did not have to go to the cross. He did not have to pay for your sins. There in the garden, while He was praying, before He went to the cross, God allowed Him the power to call twelve legions of angels to destroy those who wanted to take Him to the cross. Jesus had a choice. He did not have to go to the cross.

He did not have to shed His blood. He could have saved Himself, but if He had saved Himself, then He could not have saved you. The Roman soldiers said, "He saved others, but Himself He cannot save. If you be the Son of God, then come down off the cross." Oh, how glad I am that He did not come down from the cross. I am glad He did not choose to use those twelve legions of angels. Jesus said, "For this purpose came I into the world." And there was only one way that sin could be erased. Sin had to be erased by someone who was without sin, someone who could die for those who had sin. 2 Corinthians 5:29, "*For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.*" In other words, He took your sins and gave you His righteousness. We received the best of the trade, didn't we?

The Lion of the tribe of Juda prevailed to take the Book. When did He do this? He did this on the cross when He resisted all opposing power. He did this when He resisted everything, and even the angels of God who would have come to His rescue. Jesus, our Savior, went to the cross. Oh, what a Savior!

The elders said the Lion of the tribe of Juda had prevailed. Revelation 5:6 says, "*And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns, and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.*" Remember the Lamb that we have been preaching about? When the priest received the lamb for sacrifice, he did not examine the person that brought the lamb. The priest examined the lamb. If the lamb was accepted, then the persons' sins were automatically forgiven. Therefore Jesus offered Himself as a Lamb to God. The verse we have read says, "in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain." In other words, it had been killed, and the blood was shed. Take note of this Lamb, "having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth." Verse 7, "And He came (He was worthy) and took the Book out of the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne."

The seven eyes and the seven horns are the seven different (spiritual) angels and (earthly) messengers working through the seven church ages. When you get a real revelation of God's working in this end time, and when you get a real revelation of Jesus Christ, you will see what He accomplished through the seven church ages. God had a church age messenger for each one of those seven church ages with a message. That message was brought to one of the seven angels, and was made applicable to that age. This is why He (Christ) is depicted as having seven horns and seven eyes. A picture of this would appear to be a freak of nature, so to speak. However, we must remember that this is a vision, and is meant to represent something more than just an actual creature.

Seven church age messengers came through the seven church ages. When the church fell away from the Word, Jesus withdrew Himself and He became the High Priest. In the first chapter of Revelation, we see Jesus as the High

Priest (predominate office). In Revelation, Chapter 10, we see Him coming down from heaven; meaning He has been gone away from this earth. This is why denominations exist today. Through the church ages, we have had the leadership of the High Priest. After this, Christ comes in the form of the Mighty Angel and brings us the little book that the early church failed to claim. Then it was sealed with seven seals and those seals needed to be removed. There was not a man worthy, but the elders saw a Lamb that had been slain. When you get a glimpse of Jesus Christ at the end time with the true revelation, you will know what He accomplished through the seven church ages. He had seven church age messengers. There have been seven Spirits brought through seven angels. In His absence, He sent an angel for each age. He anointed a man, and that man became the messenger for that age. Each messenger became a horn and an eye on the lamb in this vision. There is no actual lamb in heaven with seven eyes and seven horns. Once again, I remind you that this is a vision and was written in this manner to give us a revelation of what God accomplished through the seven church ages. He came and took the Book.

In Revelation, Chapter 6, we will bring the Word up to date. We now begin to see the second *and* of Saint John 2:22. Here is why. These seals were opened in 1963 as God spoke the revelation of them through the seventh church age messenger, William Branham. Therefore, the opening of the seals has already taken place in the ministry of Brother Branham. Chapters 4-6 of Revelation flow together and the same thought is held all the way through showing the authority of God, and how this authority is transferred, or flows through, to the church. Verse One says, *"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts (remember, these are guards; guarding the revelation), saying, Come and see."*

When the Lamb opened the first seal, the first thing John saw was one of the four beasts saying, "Come and see," and there was a voice that sounded like thunder, one loud blast of thunder. There is not a blast of thunder at the opening of any of the other seals. When did this take place? The Lamb began to open the seals as seven angels came to Brother Branham in 1963. There was one loud blast of thunder and the seals were opened. Thunder represented the voice of God speaking to the church age messenger. John heard this as a blast of thunder, and, likewise, at the actual occurrence of the loud blast out in Arizona, there was a sound of thunder that seemed as though it was about to shake the mountain down. The Lamb was opening the seals in heaven to send them down to earth by those seven spiritual angels that appeared to Brother Branham in 1963. These four beasts that announce the opening of the first four seals are important in the opening of these seals. One of the four beasts said, "Come and see."

Also, this sealed scroll is like a thin magazine rolled up that has seven pieces of tape around it, and on each piece of tape only a small portion is written. For

instance, the first piece of tape has written on it what the second verse is. Verse 2, *"And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering and to conquer."* this is only written on the tape that is peeled off, but the removal of this piece of tape does not fully open the Book. It does not even open one-seventh of the Book. The Book still remains a sealed book until the seventh seal is peeled off. These seals cover the entire journey of the church from the beginning until the end.

The four beasts make an announcement at the opening of the first four seals and I want you to notice the physical appearance of these beasts. Let us return to reading the scripture to understand these four beasts again in Revelation 4:7, *"And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast was like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle."* Understanding the meaning of the physical appearance of each of these beasts is important. When the first seal was opened, the first beast said, "Come and see." And these beasts are in the order they are used in the church ages, - the lion, the ox, the man, and the eagle. Notice how they are recorded in the Word, for this is exactly how they apply in the church ages. One of the four beasts said, "Come and see," when He opened the first seal.

Now catch this: the scene that John saw was a 'white horse' and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer." Notice that there are four horses – a white horse, a red horse, a black horse, and a pale horse. The rider that mounts these horses and rides never changes. The only change in action here is that the rider changes horses. The rider starts with white horse, then he mounts a red horse, then, a black horse; finally, he mounts a pale horse, but the rider is the same all the time. This point is important, as you will see. Who is this rider? Here is the answer. When Christ ascended up into heaven to be a mediator, He sent the Holy Ghost back to earth to do His Work. As soon as He sent back the Holy Ghost, Satan noticed the working of God in the Holy Ghost and how God used the Holy Ghost to work within that early church. What did Satan do? He sent a counterfeit to the Holy Ghost. Remember this point, because it will be important throughout the message. Satan sent a counterfeit to the real Holy Ghost and when the counterfeit came, it was almost like the real Holy Ghost. Matthew 24:24 says that in the last days those spirits will be so close together again that their closeness would deceive the very elect, if it were possible. The very elect cannot be deceived, however.

When Moses was on the scene, there was a Balaam on the scene. Moses was the true prophet of God and Balaam was the false prophet. They both prophesied, and all of Moses' prophecies came to pass and only some of Balaam's prophecies came to pass. When Jesus came on the scene, who came on the scene as a counterfeit, - as an antichrist? Judas Iscariot. Those two spirits have

stayed side by side all the way through. Jesus was crucified and after going down into Satan's prison house and loosing the prisoners and bringing them forth when He arose (Matthew, Chapter 27), He ascended in heaven and sent back His Spirit (the Holy Ghost). Judas hung himself and fell down a steep place and his bowels gushed out. (Acts 1:18) He committed suicide. The spirit that was on Judas Iscariot was the spirit of Satan, - an antichrist spirit. This spirit came to oppose the working of the Spirit of God. There has to be a Christ before there can be an antichrist. The word Christ, the Messiah, means the anointed one. Antichrist means an opposing spirit to fight against the real Christ. This opposing spirit is a religious spirit, not a communistic spirit, as some believe.

In the early age, Satan started fighting the real move of God by trying to get within the church and cause the people to distance themselves farther from the Word of God. When Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, he said, "The mystery of iniquity doth already work." What is the "mystery of iniquity?" (2 Thessalonians, Chapter 2) It is the spirit of antichrist. Keep in mind that the spirit of antichrist is a religious spirit, not a communistic spirit. John wrote to the church and said, "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists." (1 John 2:18) This observation by John indicated that the antichrist spirit began to affect the people in the first age and will continue to affect them as long as wheat and tares, (believers and make-believers), grow together.

Paul's last warning to the elders at Ephesus was that there are men already among you that, just as soon as I am gone, will rise up and draw disciples after themselves. (Acts 20:29-30) That antichrist spirit was moving within the church, slowly and deliberately. Therefore, when this first seal was opened, it tells about the "white horse, and he that sat on him had a bow, and a crown was given unto him, and he went forth conquering and to conquer." This is all the first seal says, but what is the interpretation of it? The interpretation is showing this spirit going forth in the early church age. This spirit looked so innocent. This spirit looked so good, but it was the working of Satan. His actions can appear very enticing, for Satan does not present himself with ugliness. He presents himself with enticing, pleasant surroundings. The antichrist spirit always works through the carnal mind by wanting to make a beautiful congregation and wanting to set within the church offices such as elders, deacons, bishops, popes, etc..., to continually pull the church away from the leadership of God. God has His leadership, and it is in and through the five fold ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-12) The white horse represents the antichrist in his white, seemingly-innocent form, as he was in the early church. Perhaps the antichrist spirit would say something like: "We know Saint Paul is a good man, we don't doubt that, and we are not saying that Paul is not an apostle, we believe he is an apostle, but..." there is the white horse, the antichrist rider, speaking. This spirit is still alive today.

The saints asked Paul one time about those who had died and gone to heaven. Paul said I will tell you how it is going to be. He said, "The dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air." (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17) The antichrist spirit said, "Well, we believe Paul gets revelation, and in all probability, Paul is right, but..." That antichrist spirit could not be accepted by declaring that Paul was "almost Satan," and not to listen to him. Declaring a teaching that strong would not have been consistent with a white spirit. The white spirit is still here today, and the red spirit is still here, and the black spirit is still here, and the gray spirit is still here.

The white spirit would say, "Yes, we know Paul is an apostle, but why stir up a commotion from it. There are other men, and we have the Holy Ghost within us, and the Holy Ghost can talk to us, too." Can you understand how it was? That spirit would say, "I believe there is going to be a resurrection, but that talk about being caught up, I just don't know. Paul cannot quote scripture for that. We would believe it if he had written scripture; show me written scripture." Can you see the white horse, that enticing devil? He's still here, - but that lion is still here, too. God put His authority in that apostolic office and He has not moved it. That Spirit is still here. This applies to our present day, also. All of that true ministry ministered under this lion spirit.

The white horse rider is riding again. He controls all four of these horses and whichever one suits him the best, that's the one he mounts to ride. Yes, the devil controls all of his beasts, but God has control of all of His beasts, also. For the revealed saints, we are more than conquerors. Revelation 6:3-4 says, *"And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword."*

Notice this rider did not have a sword in the first seal. He had a crown and a bow, but he did not have any natural arrows. However, he shot many spiritual arrows, and he continues to do that today. He did not specialize in killing people. The first rider merely specialized in enticing people away from the Word by slipping something in that was not exactly right. However, he saw that he could not pull them from the Word, because that lion spirit was guarding the people.

This second seal was also applied in the early ages. The antichrist dismounted his white horse and mounted a red horse, and there was given him a great sword that he should kill with the sword and take peace from the earth.

The promise to the second church age was, "He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death;" this showed the martyrdom of that early church in that age. What was the second beast that came out from God? The second beast was the ox spirit. What is an ox spirit? An ox is a laboring beast and it

is also a beast of sacrifice. When the rider got on the red horse and began to kill them out, God sent the spirit of His second beast on the church. The second beast said, "Come and see." The Roman Empire had the Christians put to death by the thousands in this age. It was said by the seventh church age messenger that the Roman Catholic Church put to death sixty-eight million people. The second seal is merely a furtherance of the first seal. It is the same spirit.

Revelation 6:5-6, "*And when He had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.*" What was the third beast that came from God? The third beast had a face as a man. A man is smarter than any beast. That beast represented the wisdom of man, such as Luther, Wesley, etc. This rider on the black horse had a pair of balances in his hand. He is getting ready to measure out something. "*And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beast say, A measure of wheat for a penny and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.*" This is the antichrist carnal doctrine. In the Dark Age this false church began to sell the communion. The people had to pay when they were married, when a baby was born, and they even had to pay when there was a death to pray them out of purgatory. The world was in great darkness from about the Fifth Century on to the Fifteenth Century, when the reformation began to bring back the light of the Word.

We could consider Job a perfect type of the church, with reference to the wine and the oil. Job had all things at the beginning; however, he was stripped of everything but his very own life, for his own time of testing. Of course, we know that he was later restored, - completely restored, with his full health, and a double portion of all his earthly possessions. This example remained true for the church. The devil was not permitted to hurt the wine and the oil. Therefore, we are now restored to the original possession of the true Word, and with greater measure, - a double portion.

Notice at the start, this same rider started out on a white horse and tried to get in the church and deceive it. He did plant the seed, which was the deed of the Nicolaitans. Then it became the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, and then, the doctrine of Jezebel, the doctrine of Balaam, and so forth. Then he went forth and killed out those that would not line up with his doctrine. When he got those killed out, the whole world was in darkness.

Notice in particular the black horse of the Dark Age. There was a thousand year period where it seemed as though the world was put in reverse. By the time the world came out of the Dark Age, the great Roman Empire and the flourishing cities of that day had just about deteriorated. Many died from great plagues which took place then. What was happening? It was Satan ruling the world a thousand years with his wife. This thousand year dark period represented the antichrist riding the black horse through the Dark Age.

As the Reformation started and more of the gospel light began to shine, Rome

was not able to keep the world in total darkness any longer. Do you know why? Everywhere the Reformation traveled, the light of God's Word began to shine. Even in the scientific realm, man began to prosper and come out of his ignorance and stupidity, as the Reformation went around the world. Rome was no longer able to keep the world in darkness, and the beast received a deadly wound. It was by the wisdom of man that the Reformation started. The spirit of man was the beast that came and brought the world out of the Dark Age.

Notice that the last part of Verse 6 says, "and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." What does that represent? Even in the darkness of the darkest age, there was still a little group of true saints who had the joy of the Lord and the revelation of the Word of God. This voice that said, "see thou hurt not the oil and the wine," meant that it could not be stomped out. They could not touch that life of God. They killed millions of the vessels, but the life of God went on, and that wine and joy of the Holy Ghost. This is history. And this last age is sometimes referred to as the eagle age. The eagle spirit is one of the four living creatures that were around the throne of God. Brother William Branham was one of the first to minister under the influence of that eagle spirit. All four of these beasts are still here.

Revelation 6:7-8 says, "*And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard a voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.*" First, this rider rode a white horse, then he mounted a red horse, then he mounted a black horse, and now he mounts a pale horse. He never goes back and rides that white horse again exclusively. All four horses are still here and it depends in which realm he is working as to which horse he rides. He will ride the red horse one of these days in the tribulation and kill many people. Here he rides this pale horse, or gray horse. This pale horse is trying to unite the churches together and make a one-world church. This is the main job of the pale horse.

In Matthew 24:24, we read that in the last days these two spirits will be so close together that it will take a revelation of God to see the difference. This is the spirit that was on Cain, Balaam, Judas, and the false prophets in that early age and it is still here. However, God has sent an eagle to tell us what the truth is. He told us what to look for, and he also told us when. The fourth beast that the devil sent out was a pale or gray horse, but the beast that God sends out is a flying eagle. That eagle gives us the revelation of the true Word of God.

Today denominations shout, perform miracles, and say they are filled with the Holy Ghost, because they speak in tongues. However, we understand that the evidence or proof of having the Holy Ghost within us is not speaking in tongues. Many denominations speak with tongues and pray for the sick and

they go ahead and have their mass. What is that? It is the gray (pale) horse. However, the eagle sailed through. First, through Brother Branham who said that the evidence of the Holy Ghost was not speaking in tongues, although the Holy Ghost does speak in tongues. That eagle has come through and pulled the cover off Satan and let us know what he's doing.

The Word says that the name of him that sat on this horse was Death. What is death? When life goes out of something, it dies. Death is where life has been. Life has gone out of this Laodicea Church Age. Do you know what came in? The host of hell (demons) came into the church. I am not talking about God's true church, but I am speaking about the denominational realm. The World Council of Churches, the Roman Church, etc. They are churches of the devil, along with most of the Charismatic movements. God's eagle messenger has revealed this to us. Malachi 4:5-6 speaks of this prophet who brought the true Word to the church again. This promise was fulfilled through Brother William Branham, the seventh church age messenger.

This shows the first four seals. The white horse was the antichrist in a white form. The red horse was given a sword to kill. The black horse was the Dark Age. And the pale horse is the day in which we are now living, - when Satan is trying to loose his demons to get in and deceive the people. But we see the truth, because God has sent an eagle. There is no further explanation needed for this fourth seal because we are living in the day of its fulfillment and we now see what is happening in this religious world.

On the opening of the other three seals, there is no beast to announce it. What does this mean? These first four seals show how the church overcame the spirit of antichrist from the time it began until the end. Therefore, the fifth seal should deal with something else.

I want you to think properly and have confidence in the live ministry of the hour. We are going to go into something on this fifth seal that's a little different from the first four seals. Notice there is no beast to announce the opening of the fifth seal. Revelation 6:9 says, *"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held."* It has always been thought that these souls under the altar were those Christians who were killed for the name of the Lord in the Dark Age. However, this is not the case. God has opened this fifth seal. It says, *"I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the Word of God."* This would look like it was the dead saints who had died through the ages, the believers in Jesus who were slain. Take note of this, however: They were killed for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held. Nowhere does it indicate at all that they had the testimony of Jesus Christ. The souls under the altar are martyred Jews.

The great slaughter of the Jews took place under Hitler from about 1939 to 1945. Persecution of the Jews took place under Hitler, Eichmann, etc. They

killed the Jews just because they were Jews. Why? The answer is simply because they were Jews, but they were Jews who held to the Word of God. Those souls under the altar are Jews who have been killed for the Word of God. Romans 11:25 says, "Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in." God blinded Israel and if God blinded them, then it means that they cannot see Jesus Christ as their Savior. Why did God blind His children? Why did He blind those who had the promise, and those that kept the law? He blinded them in order to take from the Gentiles a people for His name's sake, as recorded in Acts 15:14-16, "*Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, "After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up."*"

Watch these Jews under the altar. They did not have on a robe. Some of the saints wear fine linen and some wear white robes. However, these Jews were not clothed in fine linen; neither did they have white robes. In other words, their souls were naked before God, but God did not let them go into hell. Instead, they are given white robes. These Jews were killed for the Word's sake. Millions were slain because they were Jews and believed the Word of God. All of them were not saved. All whose names were in the Book were saved. There are some Jews today, and there were then, who care nothing for the Word of God, and they will not be saved. But the Orthodox Jews stay exactly with the Word. The Orthodox Jew continues to live as close with the Word as he can, but God blinded his eyes so that he could not see Christ, so that He would be able to take out of the Gentiles a people for His name's sake. The souls under the altar are the Jews who were killed under Eichmann, Hitler, etc.

Revelation 6:10 says, "*And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"* These were Jews crying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" How long will you let them go, Lord, without judging them for what they have done to us? The bride does not speak in that manner, but the Jews do speak this way, and cry out. The bride says to forgive them. When Stephen was being stoned to death, he said, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." In other words, he was asking for them to be forgiven. This is the manner the bride thinks and speaks. However, the Jews are crying for revenge. Notice the words that were spoken unto the Jews: Revelation 6:11 says, "*And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."*

White robes were given them. These Jews did not already have white robes. These robes were given to them. They did nothing on earth, as far as the gospel

of Christ is concerned, to deserve white robes. They did not even believe in Jesus Christ. God had blinded their eyes and they stayed right with the law, and the Ten Commandments. Therefore, they had the testimony of God and the Word of God and they cried under the altar, "How long, O Lord, Holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" They did not have white robes, but the Bible says that white robes were given unto every one of them. What was the white robe? The white robe represented the mercy of God. God loved them, and rather than see them lost, God's mercy was upon them. God has blinded them for a purpose, so they could not see who Christ was. God blinded them for a purpose, and He also gave them white robes for a purpose.

Remember in the days of Joseph, how his brothers sold him into Egypt, just as the Jews sold Christ out. However, while Joseph was in Egypt, he got a Gentile bride. Later on, his brothers came into Egypt and found out who Joseph was and they said, "He will kill us for sure." This is what these Jews thought when they recognized that Christ was really the Messiah. They thought that He would kill them for sure. However, just as Joseph forgave his brothers, also God, in Jesus Christ, the Messiah, forgives these Jews and gives to them white robes. God's mercy overshadowed them, because He blinded them for a purpose.

The rest of this verse says, "*And it was said unto them that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.*" There is another slaughter coming for Israel. There is another blood bath coming to Israel. Jews will be slain by the thousands when the antichrist takes over. When that beast takes over and breaks the covenant, the Jews will be hunted down and killed by the thousands. These Jews were crying for their blood to be avenged, and they were told to wait a little season because their brethren and fellow servants had to be killed first. This means that another persecution is coming for the Jews. They will be killed by the thousands again. Your thoughts may be, "How can they be saved without accepting the Lord Jesus Christ?" However, take note and watch the church coming through the Dark Age. The saints knew hardly anything about the Lord Jesus Christ. When the Reformation started, they did not even know that you had to live by faith in God. Those who did believe in God, close to the turn of the century, believed that God was three separate persons. They did not recognize Jesus as He really is. The truth was lost in the Dark Age and Jesus had to remain there as the High Priest to make intercession for their sins. But His grace let the Gentiles go in (in that condition). Therefore, why should we think it so strange if God's grace allows the Jews to go in believing in one God, but not knowing that Jesus was the Messiah? It is the grace of God to the Gentiles, and it is the grace of God to the Jews. How can we dare say that God is wrong by allowing these Jews to go in? Our God is always

right. God is a sovereign God and He knew if He had not blinded their eyes, then the Jews would have accepted Him. Therefore, He gave them white robes and told them they would have to wait until their brethren are killed in the great tribulation. There is one very important point I want you to notice about this fifth seal. This seal has two parts. Part one took place between 1939 and 1945. Part two will not take place until the last half of Daniel's 70th Week. Also, the happenings of the fourth seal did not cease at the beginning of the fifth seal. The fourth seal shows the gray horse, - (the antichrist spirit in apostate religion), - is in existence until the end of the 70th Week of Daniel. We should be thankful that Christ the wife is outside of that religious confusion.

As I speak now about the seventh seal, we will note that this seal is not mentioned in the Chapter 6 of Revelation. However, an explanation of the full revelation of the fifth seal is not possible without showing that the seventh seal is sandwiched between part one and part two of the fifth seal. A portion of the events of the fifth seal have already taken place. We are now living in that little season of Verse 11. This separates part one from part two. The words from Matthew 24:32-34, telling of the parable of the fig tree, give a more complete explanation for our thought. *"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the door. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away until all things are fulfilled.* The fig tree putting forth leaves simply means Israel gathering back to her homeland after the persecution by Hitler of the Jews. Therefore this little season will not cover a full generation, and simply means that this is the generation that will see the coming of the Lord.

Revelation 6:12-17 says, *"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"*

The revelation of the sixth seal is very simple as the events of Verses 12 through 17 of this verse only occur once, and this occurrence is in the day of the Lord. The great day of the Lord occurs immediately after the great tribulation, as Matthew 24:29-30, *"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give its light, and the stars*

shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." After hearing these scriptures, one would have to deliberately close his spiritual eyes in order not to see the truth of this sixth seal.

Keep in mind, there is no quickening sound or commotion concerning the seventh seal. Complete silence is all that is mentioned concerning the seal. There was nothing that could be said. Try to picture a scroll rolled up tight with seven pieces of tape around it. The Lamb pulled off one tape, and under the tape was written the happenings concerning the white horse. And, likewise, as each tape was removed, a red horse, and a black horse, and a pale or gray horse, - each in sequence of the other before it. Behind the fifth seal were souls under the altar. Behind the sixth seal was the day of the Lord. Occurrences were revealed as each seal was opened. However, the Book could not be fully opened under the revealing of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, or sixth seal. When the seventh seal is removed, why would there need to be anything said? The whole Book is open then. With the opening of the whole book the authority of Jesus Christ is placed within the church again. Hallelujah!

Now that we can see the happenings revealed with the removal of six of the seven seals, we can begin to understand more about the seventh seal. Revelation 8:1 says, "*When he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.*" I want to emphasize again the point of silence upon the opening of the seventh seal. Specifically, there was silence in heaven "about the space of half an hour." Note when the other seals were opened, some words were uttered. Furthermore, specific horse riders went forth on different colored horses. Also, the sun blackened, and souls were found "under the altar." When the seventh seal was opened, no words were spoken. When all seven seals were opened, nothing had to be said for the whole book was opened. These seals were opened in 1963.

I want to read now from Revelation, Chapter 10. Keep in mind the thought for our message is, *The Two Ands and The Seven Seals*. What we have read thus far in the Bible has represented the first *and* of the seals. The interpretation is what I have been saying, - the words I have been speaking, - is the second *and*. Continue to keep the thought that Jesus withdrew Himself, withdrew His presence, while the church went through the seven church ages. Continue to keep the more important thought that He promised to come back, as we will now read.

Revelation 10:1, "*And I saw another mighty angel (Christ in angelic form), come down.*" If He came down, then He was not here on the earth at that time in this form of the Mighty Angel. He comes to marry His wife. Verse One, again, "*And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud; and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun,*

and his feet as pillars of fire." The explanation of "clothed with a cloud" is the fact that He is veiled to a degree, and we believers need a revelation in order to be able to see Him. The explanation of "a rainbow was upon His head" is the fact the rainbow represented the covenant being sent again, for the rainbow represented a covenant between God and man, after the great flood. "*And his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,"* Don't miss this. We read in Chapter 5 of Revelation that He was in heaven and the Book was in His hand. It was sealed with seven seals. Now, as we are reading, the seven seals have been opened. He comes to earth with the little book, and it is open. All seven seals have been removed from the Book. Take special note of the instruction given concerning the little book: Listen to His words of instruction. And as He came, "He cried with a loud voice." John saw this in his day of 96 A.D. Verse three, "*And he cried with a loud voice as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices."* John was writing everything he saw, and as he wrote, these happenings became part of the written Word. However, what these spiritual angels (seven thunders) said was never to become part of the written Word. What these spiritual angels said is not part of the written Word now. The words the angels said are the spoken Word, the second *and*.

As we read Verse 4, we are referring to the days that John saw it. "*And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not."* This was the unwritten Word that was brought when the seven angels came to Brother William Branham in 1963. This is the second *and* to the written seals. The Bible tells us that we cannot add to the Word, and we cannot take from the Word; for the Word is complete. However, here are seven spiritual angels sounding forth Words that were not written. The interpretation of these Words was brought to the prophet of God for this age. This could not occur until Hitler had killed the Jews. The words in Verse 4 say, "seal up those things, and write them not." The seven thunders uttered forth. John heard the words from those seven thunders and "was about to write." However, God said, "write them not." This is the second *and*, or the second part to the seals that we have read.

Revelation 10:5-6 says, "*And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer."* Take notice now that the Book would no longer be sealed. At this point the wife will no longer be in denominations. We know, of course, that time as a whole continues on and on. However, time would be no longer for denominations. Time would be no longer for the Book

to be sealed. Time would be no longer for us to have to continue to wonder about these things.

Revelation 10:7, *"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel (the seventh church age messenger; the seventh earthly angel), when he shall begin to sound the mystery (exactly what we have been reading about), the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets."* The mystery referred to in this scripture shows the movement of the church on her journey from the days of Paul. Some believers teach that the seventh church age messenger cleared up all the mysteries of the Bible, however, this is a singular mystery spoken of in this verse. The mystery revealed for us here was the route of the early church. Mysteries remain in this time of history to be revealed, and the Spirit of the Lord is able to continue to reveal mysteries to us.

The little book is now back in the earth and we need to understand what God would have us to do with it. Revelation 10:8, *"And the voice which I heard from heaven spake to me again (John being a type of the bride), and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth."* Therefore, John, being a type of the church said, *"and I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book."* Notice the angel's instructions to John concerning the little book. We should have within us the desire from the Spirit of God saying, "Give me the Word, Lord; give me the full Word." The full revelation of the Word of God will pull your spirit unto Him, and you will have that desire. John said unto the angel, "give me the little book." John heard the angel, as the scripture continues, *"And he said unto me, take it, and eat it up; and it shall make the belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey."* When you come out from among the world, you need to separate yourself. This may be difficult to do, but doing so will taste good, and you will rejoice as you know the true Word of God is back now within the church. The little book is within the earth for the wife of the Lamb. The Spirit of the Lord has told us, "Take it and eat it up." How do you eat the Word of God? You eat the Word of God by hearing it and receiving it. The wife is anxious to eat the revealed truth of the Word of God for this day.

The last two verses of Chapter 10 of Revelation are indeed an appropriate place to complete this book. Rejoice with me as we read these verses, and receive our instructions for greater revelation to the Spirit of God through the living Word. Revelation 10:10-11 says, *"And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. And He said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings."* I can hear the call to "eat and then prophesy." The minister cannot preach this little book until he has eaten it. Then he can deliver the spiritual food for the whole body to eat.

May God bless you. Amen.

AUDIO/VIDEO SERMONS AND BOOKS

All sermons by Brother Ben Howard are recorded on Cassette tape, CD's, DVD's, and Mp3 formats. Also, there is a collection of published books that are available for download or by request as well. And we will continue to add more as the Lord permits. Please feel free to visit us at our website often as new materials are constantly being added, or write to our postal address below.

Sound Of Liberty
7286 Hwy 53W, Dawsonville, Georgia 30534 U.S.A.

www.SoundOfLiberty.org
TwoAnd@soundofliberty.org



Ben Howard

“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”



1 Corinthians 15:51-53