

**PART 66: THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN SUPERNATURAL CONTRACTION CRUSHES, 13:14-23.**

#1. Their world was about to collapse. The social order was going to be fatally throttled by the power of God. #2. The anti-God, the "Abomination of Desolation" was to stand where "it should not be", v.14. Unthinkable desecration of the holy temple was to come to pass. #3. The "elect" were going to be caught up in that monster, v.20. Those historical conditions transcended crisis; "For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will", v.19. #4. Things to remember: ONE: The creation of a history of righteous living. "Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days", v.20. The elect had turned to Christ and obeyed His commandments. They consciously determined to create a personal history of righteous living. Vilified by the world, the elect suffered on and followed the Christ. That history of righteous living was honored by the Almighty and because of that history the Lord put a limit on their suffering. Daily righteous behavior may not be impressive even to the believer but it holds a powerful influence upon the God of contraction. The future may hold grave consequences for each of us. Circumstances, unknown to us in the present, will materialize. But the willful creation of a history of righteous living can have enormous effect upon that future. Righteous decisions made against human experience, constant struggle against the will of the flesh, spiritual hunger for the greater invisible Reality, love of the word of God, no stomach for sinful ways and other things are part of that history of righteous living. Jesus pointed to God's love for the elect and assures us that we will not be forsaken, even when the foundations tremble! The creation of a personal history of righteous living is a kind of spiritual currency stored up for things to come. We will not be forgotten.

**PART 67: THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN SUPERNATURAL CONTRACTION CRUSHES, 13:14-23.**

#1. When the weight of the world is upon us, when contraction is exacting, then...Remember: ONE: The willful creation of a personal history of righteous living. The Almighty honors such commitments and will help us in times of danger and unknowns. He oversees the wellbeing of the elect. #2. TWO: Prayers for amelioration. "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! But pray that it may not happen in the winter", v.17, 18. The Lord instructs the "elect" to pray that the forthcoming horrors be ameliorated, especially for the most vulnerable. Therefore, the "elect" may and should petition God to affect the scheduling of the "tribulation" and its effects upon people. This is a concession of the first order to those who follow the revealed truth. Here is proof that the Almighty does, indeed, care greatly about our suffering in time and materiality. Indicated here is the idea that the force of contraction and the temporal timing of it is not necessarily predetermined. We must understand the Lord and His powers of contraction in the immeasurable light of revelation. It could not be made more plain. Along with the powers of supernatural contraction, there is conceded to us the power of prayer for amelioration. Remember...THREE: "...then those

who are in Judea must flee to the mountains", v.14. There are circumstances that require that the "elect" leave them behind. The warning came with a sense of immediacy and urgency, v.15, 16. When any situation becomes so godless, so degenerate, corrupt, so charged with sacrilege and in consequence, liable to aggressive contraction by the Lord, then, the elect have no place within it. We should flee from it. Jobs, relations, organizations, academia, the internet could be implicated here.

From the Book of Mark. THE LIFE OF CHRIST and THE POWERS OF CONTRACTION. PART 68: SUPERNATURAL CONTRACTION BUILDS UP, 13:24-37. #1. As the contraction builds up to its intended intensity there would be (a) a great deal of confusion but believers are not to be moved by that, (13:1-13); (b) days of tribulation and the need to take heed to revealed wisdom, (13:14-23); and there would be violence, consequently the need to stay alert, (13:24-37). #2. What was going to happen is not the end of the world. "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place", v.30. #3. The Lord used the prophetic language of catastrophe from Isaiah 13:10 (v.24, 25) to communicate the drastic implications of this contraction. #4. Then the Lord made a most extraordinary statement. It can only be described as post temporal. "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the furthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven", v.26, 27. #5. The risen Christ at the helm of history. Everything of real importance is spiritual, everything of determining power originates in the invisible, the source of every singular transcendent hope is eternal and all things temporal contract back upon the will of God, the word of God, the power of God. #6. Those events put time and materiality in their proper perspective. There is nothing causal nor even permanent about time. There is no such thing as the human derived theory of closed systems. #7. That is a myth: "Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door", v.29. #8. Jesus expressed in time and materiality words of the most sobering kind: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away", v.31. In that kind of universe, the only worthy state of mind is to be "alert", v.33, 35. Men must reckon with a power they cannot contain, and that in a world under constant supernatural contraction. #9. "What I say to you I say to all, 'Be on the alert!'", v.37. We cannot afford to be captivated by anything temporal; be it life or death. We must be post-temporal to be "alert"!

PART 69: THE PHENOMENON OF PERSONAL INTENT, 14:1-11.

#1. The "chief priests and the scribes" (v.1); the "woman with an alabaster vial" (v.3); "Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve" (v.10) all held personal intentions. #2. Personal intent is either rooted in the spiritual realities or it is rooted in the material world and in experience. #3. Personal intent always precedes and is concerned with outcomes. Personal intent can move towards or can add to the interests of the worldly collective. Or personal intent can move to the approval of God. #4. The shared personal intent of the chief priests and the scribes was to engineer a specific outcome. Those men "...were seeking how to seize Him by stealth and kill Him", v.1. Nothing new here,

but the danger is that their shared personal intent was to pursue specific material circumstances. And that is the power driving personal intent. #5. "Stealth" was the managing element in their pursuit. "Judas" must have used stealth in his intent to "betray" the Lord, v.10. Personal intent can only be known by its resultant outcomes and circumstances. Stealth itself is another personal intent; to hide final purpose, to disguise the real situation sought for. #6. "...there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; and she broke the vial and poured it over His head", v.3. Her personal intent was to honor Jesus and to seek His approval. The intent before that act was not grounded in selfish pursuit nor in money. The Lord understood it that way; "...Let her alone; why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to Me", v.6. "She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial", v.8. #7. The woman's personal intent was more valuable than the cost of the perfume, v.4, 5. #8. In a church, in any collective, among any set of persons there are personal intents, declared or undeclared. Some of those lead to the honoring of God and securing His approval; while others are quite ignoble, worldly, materialistic and concerned with circumstances. #9. We are accountable for personal intent just as we are for other behaviors. Our personal intent must be brought subject to Christ or it will pursue a kind experience quite opposed to Him.

#### PART 70: THE DOMINATING FIELD OF SPIRITUAL MEANING, 14:12-31.

#1. The Bible, with an insistent cadence, communicates this truth: The universe, everything and everyone in it, are surrounded by a Field of Supernatural Meaning; not controlled in any way by time or nature (Romans 1 for instance). #2. The supernatural field of meaning holds in its lock all things temporal. Jesus was the living demonstrator of this truth through His deeds and teachings. #3. About the "Passover": "...Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him"... "to the owner of the house" ... "Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?" ... "he himself will show you...", v.12-15. #4. The supernatural field of meaning had put its impression upon those historical actors and they contracted upon it. The same field of meaning that encompasses us today. #5. Defiance of the supernatural field of meaning: "...one of you will betray Me--one who is eating with Me"... "It is one of the twelve, one who dips with Me in the bowl", v.18, 20. The revealed field of meaning is eternal, anti-dating the actions of Judas Iscariot. He had his opportunity to comply or defy! For Judas, the choice was terrifying; "...It would have been good for that man if he had not been born", v.21. #6. Judas' defiance was the pinnacle. But who has not or does not defy, in one way or another, the supernatural field of meaning? Consequences. #7. The field of meaning touches the flesh. "...He took some bread...'Take it; this is My body'..." "He had taken a cup...all drank from it"... "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many", v.22, 23, 24. This envelope of revealed meaning touches us all and literally. We really need to think about that. #8. The supernatural field of meaning has to be faced; its benedictions and its liabilities: "...You will all fall away, because it is written, 'I will strike down the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered!'" (Zechariah 13:7), v.27. #9. Fear would scatter the disciples and momentarily shatter their faith in God, the word of God, the power of God. #10. The

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supernatural field of meaning, that engulfs us all, is a menace only to those who defy it!  
But to those who believe it and follow it, it is the taskmaster!