

PART 21: THE CONTINUUM OF CONTRACTION, 5:21-43. #1. God-->Holy Spirit-->Jesus-->teaching of contraction-->faith-->language-->the power of God-->physiology-->resurrection/healing. #2. Every subsequent member of this continuum contracts back upon the previous. #3. It must be that by means of this continuum, the Almighty reaches in to the material order for His own purposes. The supernatural continuum of contraction is a means to an end. That end is the will of God. #4. There were many of those to whom the Lord preached who rejected the entire revealed truth of contraction. Their reasoning discarded the thought that the temporal world was fully subordinate to this sequence of the Spirit. #5. The church of the Lord stands visible in the world of men. Behind them stands the continuum of contraction. #6. The resurrection of the little girl (5:41, 42) and the healing of the woman (5:33, 34) were the results of the contraction of their physiology upon the power of God. The power of God contracted back upon their language and the faith that contracted it, 5:23, 28. And that faith contracted back upon the Lord's demonstration and teaching of contraction. All of that was in contraction upon the presence of Jesus. Jesus contracted back upon the direction of the Holy Spirit and ultimately, everything contracts back upon the God of the Jews. #6. Mere men were invited to belong to this supernatural structure by their faith and their determination to think, speak, and behave consistent with its power. #7. From Genesis 3 forward in scripture, examples amplify the fact that few put true faith in the powers of supernatural contraction and thus were found faithless. #8. Naturalism and rationalism, in the contemporary church, have all but outlawed thought, speech, and behavior predicated on the revealed truth of contraction.

PART 22: THE CASE FOR HIGHER ORDER MAPPING, 6:1-6. #1. Jesus "...came into His hometown (Nazareth)...", 6:1. "...He began to teach in the synagogue...", 6:2. "...many listeners were astonished...". #2. Those present were aware of the Lord's "miracles" and "wisdom". All of that prompted them to ask the right questions: "...Where did this man get these things, and what is this wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands...", 6:2. #3. What we may call higher order mapping works like this. It starts with the external world, with world of objects and things. One sees (experiences) an object/event. It is captured by the central nervous system in images (icons). #4. Then human reason, purely abstract, begins to think about those images and events. Reason is of a higher order than the central nervous system. That is higher order mapping. #5. Those in "the synagogue" did that, but they stopped too short. As a result, they were "astonished"; but they did not believe in Him and that surprised the Lord, 6:6. #6. There is a problem with foreshortened higher order mapping: unbelief. Here is what they should have done. Those people heard Jesus' teaching and saw His miracles and human reason began to map human intelligence upon what they saw. But they did not grasp that human reason must itself be represented by a still higher order mapping--that provided by revelation. #7. In order to gain increasing understanding, one must use increasingly more abstract thought. And the highest order of abstraction is the word of God! #8. Higher order mapping is precisely how believers come to a biblical (i.e. revealed) way of understanding about every aspect of human experience. #9. Something happens and a regression begins to

unfold. Human reason maps what meaning it can upon the something. Then the word of God is brought to bear upon the findings of human reason. Faith overrules human reason! The Lord teaches us how to live.

PART 23: CONTRACTION AS OBEDIENCE DISPLACES ALL NORMAL TEMPORAL CONSIDERATIONS, 6:7-13. #1. The Lord put the disciples in a very questionable or uncomfortable position. He sent "the twelve" (6:7) out in pairs and with direct orders "...that they should take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff--no bread, no bag, no money in their belt--but to wear sandals; and He added, 'Do not put on two tunics'", 6:8, 9. Those are simple and expected matters of preparation for any journey—still, Jesus forbade them. #2. The disciples were dispatched with the supernatural power and "...authority over the unclean spirits", 6:1. They "...preached that men should repent", 6:12. "...they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them", 6:13. #3. This means that the Lord sent the twelve out with supernatural powers of contraction. Repentance can only transpire as a voluntary contraction back upon the will of God and the word of God. Such a practice of supernatural contraction invariably fractures society. Those who repent of sin and turn to God step out of the sociological whole. #4. Obedience to Christ, in this regard, is the epitome of personal voluntary contraction back upon the will of God, the word of God, and the power of God. Christianity is neither a philosophy nor a humanly devised ideology. It is the conscious, personal, voluntary determination to contract desires, fears, anxieties, experience, and common sense back upon the word of God. #5. Therefore, the practice of contraction as obedience to the Lord is so powerful as to displace all and every temporal consideration. This must include even uncertainty of survival. #6. Contraction as obedience has the force to displace the strangulation of behavior by uncertainty. Believers do not rationalize nor manage normative uncertainty. We displace them by contraction as obedience! #7. Scripture abounds in examples of those who gave up on obedience in order to align with the textures of normative uncertainty.

PART 24: UNDERCURRENTS THAT PROMOTE DISAVOWAL, 6:14-32. #1. "And King Herod heard of it, for His name had become well known; and people were saying, 'John the Baptist has risen from the dead, and that is why these miraculous powers are at work in Him'", 6:14, 16. #2. By his own acknowledgment, Herod knew that a vast field of contraction had demonstrated its presence. His belief that John had "risen" from the dead is proof of his thinking. #3. The king was afforded the opportunity to "...repent and believe in the gospel", 1:15. He rejected it. #4. "A strategic day came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his lords and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee", 6:21. #5. The powers of contraction had been made manifest and self-evident. But there were worldly undercurrents promoting the personal disavowal even of the power of God. #6. Undercurrent: Political maneuvering. Herod gave a banquet for the very people that could help him retain power. He was obliging the political undercurrent. Undercurrent: Self-interest. "...Herod was afraid of John..." "righteous and holy..." (6:20)--everything that Herod was not. His only driving interest was the self. Undercurrent: Lust

of the flesh. The dance performance of the daughter of Herodias (6:22) was calculated to arouse the passions in men. The king was carried away by his own lust. He was willing to do anything. Undercurrent: Violence. John was beheaded in prison, 6:27. Undercurrent: Revenge, adultery, and power. Herodias committed adultery with Herod and against her husband Philip, 6:17-19. John rebuked both Herod and Herodias for that sin; it was "not lawful". #7. Everyone has his/her own undercurrents with which to deal. The gamut of such undercurrents is colorful and varied. In any church worship service or fraternal gathering there will be those concealing driving undercurrents, regarding which plans have been laid to satisfy them. Then or now just such motives have something in common. #8. Lawless undercurrents conspire to promote the personal disavowal of the powers of contraction.

PART 25: SUPERNATURAL CONTRACTION BREACHES THE LOGIC OF QUANTIFICATION. #1. Quantification is a way of trying to understand the material realm and order of things. Its form of measurement is used to grapple with the material realities of one's own personal circumstances. #2. The "secluded place" (6:31) had been overrun with people "ahead of them", 6:33. #3. Jesus "...felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd...", 6:34. What He did for them was done out of His love for them. #4. The Lord undertakes to feed them Himself, all "five thousand men..." (6:44) and until they "were satisfied", 6:42. #5. "And He took...five loaves...two fishes...looking up to toward heaven...blessed the food...broke the loaves...divided up the two fish among them all", 6:41. #6. In this miracle the powers of supernatural contraction breached the logic of quantification. The logic of quantification was rendered meaningless. One cannot understand the world nor one's experience founded upon the logic of quantification. That form of reasoning was nullified. #7. Division of the loaves and fishes should have reduced that food stock; but it did not. There is no natural explanation. This means that in a universe or circumstance forced into a contracted state, that needs and necessity are not relative to quantification. They are relative to contraction. Quantification governs much of our understanding: from money to degrees of pathology, agriculture, consumption, military power, production and other things. #8. True biblical faith in the will of God, the word of God, the power of God and supernatural contraction overrules living by the logic of quantification! #9. The logic of quantification says you are in trouble regarding critical supplies of everything--too little, too late. But with supernatural contraction one ends up with more than that with which one started! "...twelve full baskets of the broken pieces, and also of the fish", 6:43. #10. In over your head? Think contraction, not quantification! The Almighty calls that faith!