

PART 6: CONTRACTION IS A WAY OF REASONING, 2:1-13. #1. This extraordinary event became the setting in which one of the implications of the powers of contraction was forced into evidence. #2. The revealed facts about the powers of contraction change all of the rules of reasoning. Conventional laws of logic are overruled by the contracting power of God. #3. Some men "...came..." to Capernaum "...bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men", v.3. Presupposed in these words is the fact that those men (5 of them) had thought about the demonstrated power of Jesus over material conditions. And found that conventional, time bound, earth bound, experience bound thinking was no longer relevant. #4. So, they "came". "Being unable to get to Him...they removed the roof...dug an opening...they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying", v.4. #5. "And Jesus seeing their faith..." (v.5) refers to their behavior. All 5 of these men were insistent, resolute, convicted & determined. Entry by roof proved their faith, which turns out to be a distinct form of reasoning founded upon the revealed powers of contraction. #6. Jesus responded to the paralytic with unexpected terms; "Son, your sins are forgiven", v.5. Such language was provocative & inflammatory. The "scribes" were uniformly offended. The line of "reasoning in their hearts" (v.6) could not cope with the power contraction that Jesus commanded. #7. This necessarily means that human reasoning must catch up to, adjust to the reality of God. Not the other way around. "...He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone", v.7. Their routine way of reasoning had been made irrelevant. #8. It does not matter how He says it; "Your sins are forgiven" or "Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk" (v.9); the issue is irresistible unmitigated power! That power was beyond their reasoning & beyond their language. #9. Jesus ordered the paralytic to walk (v.11) & he did. "they were all amazed". Why was the Bible written but to allow for the contraction of the minds of men back upon the word of God & the power of God?

PART 7: THE WORD OF GOD & ITS GIFTS OF CONTRACTION. #1. The purpose of the word of God has always been a subject of debate. As Jesus preached & performed miracles, an inarguable impression was made upon those then present. The power of God contracted back upon the word of God & the material realm of things was forced to contract back upon that supernatural complex. #2. "They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, 'What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey'", 1:27. #3. On another occasion; "And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God saying, 'We have never seen anything like this'", 2:12. #4. This means that the revelation had broken into their personal experience. Their responses to situations was an admission that human experience cannot cope with the absolute powers of contraction. Human experience had been decisively displaced. #5. Of course the divine powers of contraction appear everywhere in the Bible, both Old & New Testaments. "Immediately" as the Book of Mark opens Jesus breaks into all of the contours of the temporal realm; physical, material, historical, sociological, psychological, experiential, linguistic & spiritual. The Lord's teaching & power put into question all temporal rooted assumptions. The Master puts into evidence the relation of God to time. #6. Most certainly, the word of God,

revelation, the Bible partake of this same purpose. Because the Bible is ancient it is generally approached as history. It being history is a fact; it is not an argument. #7. The Bible is a supernatural intrusion into all the contours of temporal reality. This wonderful gift alerts the human mind to the fact of & potential of supernatural contraction.

**PART 8: THE PRESENCE OF JESUS, HIS TEACHING & HIS POWERS OF CONTRACTION DEFINE APPROVED REASONING, 2:14-22. #1.** With the appearance of Jesus, His words & the powers that He possessed over material reality, circumstances had overtaken the reasoning of some of the Jews. He found their reasoning defective. #2. It turned out that their thinking explained nothing, failed to capture the meaning of the moment & was irrelevant, even counterproductive to the then present situation. #3. The Lord & His disciples dined in Levi's house (newly called) with many other "tax collectors and sinners", v.14, 15. #4. So, the Lord's antagonists generated a false character assessment. "...Why is He eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners?", v.16. The defect in reasoning was the utter disregard of everything Jesus preached & did. "His response: "...It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners", v.17. #5. The primary defect in their reasoning: The Lord's powers of contraction over materiality & circumstance had no place in their thought, speech & behavior. It meant nothing! Their defective reasoning denied proven contraction, a supposed impossibility. #6. Their insistence upon fasting (v.18) as proof of righteousness was defective in view of the arrival of the Lord of supernatural contraction. "...While the bridegroom is with them the attendants of the bridegroom cannot fast, can they?...", v.19. #7. Approved reasoning rejoices in the presence of such a One & is saddened by His absence. "But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from, and then they will fast in that day", v.20. #8. Approved reasoning & defective reasoning are mutually exclusive. Defective reason is like sewing "...a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment...", & "a worse tear results", v.21. It only makes things worse. Applying that to circumstance is frightening. #9. Approved reasoning is like putting "...new wine into fresh wine skins", v.22. It resolves problems & is redemptive. #10. Personal reasoning must contract back upon revelation if one is to believe in Christ!

**PART 9: WARNING: ONLY THE FORCE OF SUPERNATURAL CONTRACTION GENERATES MEANING, 2:23-3:12. #1.** Authentic revealed meaning can come from only one source; the supernatural power of contraction. The meaning of the "Sabbath" had been distorted by the Jews. #2. "Jesus said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath'", 2:27. That purpose & meaning of the Sabbath are derived from the contraction of the practice back upon the revealed truth. The Lord cited 1 Samuel 21, (2:25, 26) as an example of His point. The purpose & meaning of the Sabbath was to bless man; it was not given as a cudgel to coerce a formalism. #3. That is why David was not condemned for his taking the consecrated bread. And why the disciples stood sinless for their "picking the heads of grain", 2:23. Neither of those episodes violated the intent of the law; that is to say the spirit of the law. #4. The

Pharisees were only compelled by the letter of the law. "...Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?", v.24. Over time the meaning of the Sabbath had been increasingly removed (a dilation) from the letter of the law. #5. "They were watching Him to see if He would heal him (man with a withered hand) on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him", 3:2. Again the Lord appealed to the intent/spirit of the Sabbath; "...Is it lawful to do good...or harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?", 3:4. The only thing left of the holy day was the letter. "But they kept silent". #6. It was they who had violated the meaning of the Sabbath! "The Pharisees went out and immediately began conspiring with the Herodians against Him, as to how they might destroy Him", 3:6. #7. To abandon the principle of contraction is to forsake the pursuit of revealed meaning. The difference between eternal meaning & the letter of the word was never to be dilated, but it was. The result was a meaningless commandment! #8. This text explains how & why much contemporary usage of scripture can be cited to favor the precise opposite of its meaning! #9. "So the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath" (2:28) had to mean to the Pharisees that Jesus is the Lord of the revelation. Contract back upon it or meet it in the judgment! Ritual without meaning is useless!

PART 10: CONTRACTION SETS THE COURSE!, 3:13-30. #1. The powers of supernatural contraction set the course of life, situation, circumstance, events & states of being, according to the Book of Mark. #2. An example: The Lord contracted the lives of twelve men back upon the will of God. "And He went up on the mountain and summoned (historical presents) those who He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach", 3:13, 14. Their lives would never be the same, whatever happened. #3. These men & the church after them were called to live the life of Christ. This is the Christian life, the life in full contraction upon the will of God & the power of God! #4. The life of contraction & its belief inspires the phenomenon of hyper criticism. This reaction is not demanded by contraction & is a kind of default response. There are three kinds of hyper criticism addressed in this text. #5. First: Hyper criticism as smoke screen. "The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, 'He is possessed by Beelzebul, and He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons'", 3:22. Irrational, self-contradictory & absurd, it is used to obscure all that Jesus had taught & done. Vacuous & devoid of content, the Lord destroyed their argument; "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand", 3:24. The devil is smarter than that. #6. Second: Hyper criticism as blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. "...whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin--because they were saying, 'He has an unclean spirit'", 3:29, 30. This is a standing sin! The scribes attributed (sin of attribution) the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan! The Almighty will not forgive that. Conveyance of this sin is language. #7. Third: Hyper criticism as rationalization. "When His own people (family) heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, 'He has lost His senses'", 3:21. They thought Him insane. His family sought to get Jesus out of circulation. Seclusion was not what the Lord had in mind. The powers of contraction have nothing in common with rationalized solutions. The Lord sets the course!