

# PROTECTION DURING 3½ YR REIGN OF BEAST - ELM 1980

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

How can we be assured of protection for God's people during the 3½ year reign of the Beast and the False Prophet? Some have thought that a place south east of Jerusalem called Petra might be an option, and that might be true for those living in Judea or around Jerusalem, but what about those who live in the U.S., G.B., Australia, or anywhere else in the world. Petra may not be a convenient location! God can and does afford protection for His people wherever they are during the time of the Anti-Christ.

A period of seven years will occur in the end time. The two witnesses will preach for the first 3½ years, and then be killed and their bodies will lie in the streets for the world to see. No doubt the media will have a field day. Then will begin the Great Tribulation in the middle of the seven years which will mimic the Wrath of God when Christ declares war on the nations who resist His coming.

The Great Tribulation and the Wrath of God are two different events. The 'Great Tribulation' precedes the setting up of the 'Mystery Babylon'; and the 'Wrath of God' heralds Christ's return when He will war against all those who attack Him at His coming.

Then the war in heaven will begin explained in Revelation 12.

Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

The result of that war Satan will be ejected from heaven down to the earth, and this has not happened yet, when he will begin to establish the 3½ year rule of the 'Mystery Babylon', the system which will engulf the whole earth providing a type of peace and prosperity.

The display of Satan will look beautiful, and so will his demonic angels. They will come in glory, they will appear as angels of light, and the world will believe that Christ has returned to set up His Kingdom. This is a counterfeit of Christ who is coming with His angels, here is something that looks just like the real thing and deceives everyone in the world except the elect.

Satan the Devil will take over the mind of the Beast, the Anti-Christ or one who is in the place of Christ, and the False Prophet the 'Elijah to come', and they will convince the whole world that Christ has returned.

The Temple will be in operation, and all its functions will be in full swing. Sacrifices will be reinstated, and worship of the Beast and the image of the Beast who will sit in the Temple saying he is God will engulf over the world.

Revelation 13: 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

These blasphemies will not be swear words, or "OMG" or any other curse words, they will be claiming to be God which is blasphemy and expecting people to worship them. The Pharisees accused Christ of blasphemy when He said, "I am" or I am God.

Nobody is able to war with the Beast who has the power to reign for forty two months, or 3½ years. You can war against him if you like, but you will be destroyed. There will be no point in resisting the system.

The effect of the Beast's reign will be to usher in the appearance of a millennium, with peace and prosperity for all. They will also reinstate the Mosaic Law. But it is all a counterfeit, something that looks just like the real thing and fools the whole world except those whose names are written in the book of life.

Revelation 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. 8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

The wise called out ones will not worship the Beast, but submit quietly to the system. Some 'saints' who resist the 'system' will be overcome or subdued with force, or even killed if they do not submit to the rules of the 'system'.

Titus 3:1 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

But those written in the book of life will be protected. But how can Christ's ekklesia, his saints be protected? By being subject to those who rule in the 'system'. There is nothing wrong with keeping the old Laws if that is what the 'mystery system' requires, so long as doing so does not involve worship. Keep in your house, head down, and don't rock the boat!

Revelation 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:  
17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

What is the mark of the Beast? There have been so many guesses and suggestions by 'learned' religious people over the years. Is this speaking of a physical, literal mark that everyone can see, or is it figurative? Is this talking about some physical or tattooed mark, or an electronic device placed under the skin of the population of the whole earth? Probably not.

One trap for the unwary is to take figurative things in the Bible literally, and literal things figuratively. Does the Bible give us a clue about this mark?

We do have a clue in Deuteronomy in connection with keeping the Law, where it speaks of keeping the law in your heart, and as a sign in your hand (by the physical practice of keeping the laws) and the frontlets between your eyes, or in the frontal lobes of your mind.

Deuteronomy 11:18 Therefore shall ye lay up these my words (the Law) in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.

In the Bible, the 'hand' usually implies or involves action, and the 'forehead' is generally about the mind and a way of thinking. If this applies to the 'mark of the Beast' in the forehead and in the hand, then it is to do with what a person thinks in his mind, and what he does with his life. If the 'system' is so clever that you will be deceived, what might the mark be?

The mark is a symbol without which you cannot trade, it could just be obedience to the Law.

When He returns, Christ is going to reestablish the Sabbath and the Holy Days, and the New Moons, yes He is. So this false Christ will do exactly the same thing. No apostle, or Christian who would accept it if the Beast instituted obviously pagan rites. They might accept Sunday worship, Easter or Christmas or what religions do now, but the 'system' has to mimic what Christ will do.

When Christ returns, He is going to reinstitute the Temple sacrificial system, and He is also going to reinstitute the Mosaic Law for Israel.

Israel never kept the Law properly, they never obeyed God's request that they do so, and that they behave as an example to the rest of the world. So God divorced them, and told Israel that they were no longer His people. Israel would never again be His people until they finally repent and accept Christ.

During the time of Christ, the Jews were keeping the Law incorrectly as Christ pointed out to them, and they killed Him. People keeping the Law of Sabbaths, Holy Days etc., can still be just as carnal as anyone else. Religious people always ridicule, persecute, torture or kill those who do not agree with their teachings.

Israel will finally repent, and Christ will say in essence, "You never kept My Law, so you are going to have to go through a period of keeping the Mosaic Law in the spirit and the letter, and realize just how hard it is, so that you can truly appreciate what My sacrifice means, and value the New Covenant Law of Love, Grace, peace, forgiveness and life!"

So how can we be protected from the counterfeit 'system'?

**1. PROTECTION COMES IF YOU OBEY THE LAWS OF THOSE WHO RULE OVER YOU.**

So the Beast will establish the universal misuse of the Law of God, Sabbaths, Holy Days, clean and unclean meats, and so on, but it will include worship of the Beast and the False Prophet, the Elijah to come, and the Image of the Beast.

Keeping the Old Law is no problem to a mature Christian, because they will realize that is it really not an issue for them, and is not against the law of

God to do so, just not really necessary, unless the government over you requires it. In that case do as they want you to do, so long as it does not involve worshipping a false Christ.

Let no man judge you concerning days etc., they are no longer an issue for mature Christians.

Colossians 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days:  
17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

Some interpret this verse as: Let no man judge you, etc., (but do let the body or ministers in authority over you in the 'church' judge you!) This is a completely twisted misinterpretation of what is clearly written here.

Notice also that the features of the Old Covenant are a shadow of things to come, in the sense that Christ will reestablish them when He returns! God is not finished with using the Old Covenant yet!

Now you mature Christians are grown out of kindergarten, you don't need to worry about the Mosaic Laws we have Christ's New Laws of Love. Paul said to the Galatian Gentiles, you do not have to worry about all those things, they were fine for the O.T. kindergarten period, but we are now more mature, and no longer under the schoolmaster.

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Galatians 3: 23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. 24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. 26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Romans 14: 5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. 6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that

regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

Paul is saying, respect what others do, let anyone do whatever they want to do, it is not our business.

If we adopt this principle, we are protected right now when the iniquity is at work. Are we going to mow the lawn if all around me are keeping Sunday, or in a country which keeps Friday are we going to flout their rules and disrespect them? Not a good idea, we can just follow what is going on, and respect them to avoid giving offence without joining in ourselves.

2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

This verse is clarified greatly by the Philips translation:

2 Thessalonians 5-12 I expect you remember now how I talked about this when I was with you. You will probably also remember how I used to talk about a “restraining power” which would operate until the time should come for the emergence of this man (the Beast). Evil is already insidiously at work but its activities are restricted until what I have called the “restraining power” (of God) is removed. When that happens the lawless man will be plainly seen—though the truth of the Lord Jesus spells his doom, and the radiance of the coming of the Lord Jesus will be his utter destruction. The lawless man is produced by the spirit of evil (Satan the Devil) and armed with all the force, wonders and signs that falsehood can devise. To those involved in this dying world he will come with evil’s undiluted power to deceive, for they have refused to love the truth which could have saved them. God sends upon them, therefore, the full force of evil’s delusion, so that they put their faith in an utter fraud and meet the inevitable judgment of all who have refused to believe the truth and who have made evil their play-fellow.

Those who do not want to obey the rule of the Beast in the keeping of the Mosaic Law, they are going to be in trouble. In the same way, evangelical people and Catholics who will say I am going to keep Sunday etc., and those others like Islamics, people who insist on keeping Friday are going to be in real trouble if they do not submit, they will not be able to resist the Beast.

1 Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

We have protection from false forms of religion now. We are mature enough to know that we do not have to be concerned about what the Beast brings in. Are we going to insist on Sunday or Friday worship and go against the Beast's orders? No! If we are required to keep the Sabbaths, that is no problem to us, or the Feast, etc., we can just go along with it do long as we do not worship the image or the Beast.

Even some true Christians will lay themselves open to problems if they resist the ordinances of the 'system'. Some 'saints' will be overcome, subdued with force or even killed if they do not submit to the powers that be.

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

The fact that there is no power except from God is made clear in Jeremiah who lived in the time when Nebuchadnezzar was in control of Israel, but Nebuchadnezzar was God's servant in doing so.

Jeremiah 27:6 And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him.

## 2. PROTECTION COMES IF YOU AVOID BEING TAKEN IN BY PUBLIC MIRACLES.

No matter how powerful the public miracles anyone sees occur, do not be caught up in them. Fire descends from heaven? Ignore it. People brought back from life? Ignore it.

Miracles are being done in our era 'in Christ's name' by hundreds of TV evangelists in public, with the credit going to a man or an organization using Christ's name to deceive. People are flocking to healers, and those who make 'miracles', and they are a misuse and are evil. Staged evangelical shows, some might use a sign, "EXPECT A MIRACLE". Miracles are good, but they should be like prayer, in private!

Don't expect miracles! Especially disregard or have great suspicion of public spectacles, where apparently miraculous things happen.

Christ said: Matthew 12:39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign (a miracle); and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders (public astounding miracles); insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

John 4:48 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

Satan and the Beast know that the way to get people to believe is to show signs and wonders so they use this human characteristic to capture the minds of the world.

We can have miracles in our personal life in private. When Christ performed miracles were they public? No. When the disciples performed miracles, were they in public? No. Neither with Paul.

Here in a meeting hall is a sign, "Expect a miracle". This is telling you that the person showing miracles are glorifying themselves. They may appear to be giving glory to God, "Hallelujah, praise the Lord", etc., but they are only using the name of Christ. Christ warned of those false ones who come in His name, saying "Depart from Me, I never knew you."

Revelation 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

The Beast will not bring out or utter curse words, but his blasphemies will consist of saying he is god and reviling Christ in heaven.

Revelation 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

### 3. THE THIRD KEY TO PROTECTION IS TO SUBMIT.

Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Those written in the book of life will have protection, provided they will submit to the powers that be. Resist them, and you are in trouble.

Revelation 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear...

Hear what? Hear very carefully, verse 10.

Revelation 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Some might feel like resisting, they might want to object, and join in protests and so on. They might want to resist, even wanting to kill, which is not Christian. Anyone who tries to force the government of the time will reap the results persecution and death.

The Image of the type of the world dominating power in Daniel was destroyed by a stone cut out without hand, that is from God. This stone destroys the image, the head of Gold, but that has not happened yet. The head controls the whole system. Nebuchadnezzar is a type of the head of the 'Mystery Babylon' the Beast.

Jeremiah lived in the time of Nebuchadnezzar, and saw everything that was going on. He explains the principle of non-resistance. He explained that very clearly.

Jeremiah 27:1 27 In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah came this word unto Jeremiah from the Lord, saying,  
2 Thus saith the Lord to me; Make thee bonds and yokes, and put them upon thy neck,  
3 And send them to the king of Edom, and to the king of Moab, and to the king of the Ammonites, and to the king of Tyrus, and to the king of Zidon, by the hand of the messengers which come to Jerusalem unto Zedekiah king of Judah;

Jeremiah 27:6 And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, **my servant**; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him.

Here is Nebuchadnezzar the head of gold, doing a job for God, he was given control over everything animals and so on. If these kings will not submit to Nebuchadnezzar, an evil man, God will punish them

Jeremiah 27:11 But the nations that bring their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him, those will I let remain still in their own land, saith the Lord; and they shall till it, and dwell therein.

Just submit and you will be able to till the land and live in your houses. The whole story is contained in the chapters of Jeremiah from 27-40.

Even those who were in captivity in Babylon were told to build houses in Babylon, enjoy a good life, and seek the peace of the city.

Jeremiah 29:4 Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon; 5 Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; 6 Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished. 7 And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.

Here is the promise of protection, submit and you will have peace. Carry on as normal a life as you can under captivity, do not rock the boat. Also ignore any so-called prophets (or ministers etc.) around you, do not let them deceive you because I have not sent them.

Jeremiah 29:8 For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed. 9 For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the Lord.

The Jews would not believe Jeremiah, and still, the remnant would not submit, and they went off to Egypt. Jeremiah told them, "You go to Egypt and you will die down there." They went down to Egypt, and even took Jeremiah with them, and they were all killed by Nebuchadnezzar who chased after them because they did not submit to his rule.

Who is it that is allowing all this evil trouble to come on the earth? It is God, He loves His children so much, He needs to teach them a lesson, and is willing to punish them to do so.

Till your land, marry, have children, look after your families, submit to Nebuchadnezzar, and you will have peace, and this was a type of what is going to happen in the 3½ years under the Beast power.

There will be no evangelical organizations at the time, as there will be no freedom of religious worship. There will be a famine of the hearing of the word of God.

Amos 8:11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord:

Just keep your mouth shut, submit to the rules Evangelism will be extinguished, no alternative religion will be allowed. Don't attempt to publicise your views if they differ from the 'system'. Submit quietly, and you will have protection.

Only one thing as a Christian that we must not do, is to worship the Beast or the Image of the Beast which might be a Cherubim, the only image allowed, yes, but it is still forbidden to worship it.

Revelation 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

That may well be the image of a cherubim, and although it was all right to make the image of them for that purpose in the Temple, they are not to be worshipped under any circumstances, even if they speak!

Revelation 13:15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

So what are the three modes of protection from the Beast power?

1. Keep and submit to the laws as prescribed by the 'system'.
2. Avoid 'miracles' like the plague, they will be for the wrong reason.
3. Submit, we all want freedom, but God says submit.

Jeremiah was preaching to us at the end of the age, by giving us the example of obeying even a wicked ruler if we just behave, we will enjoy safety, the fruit of the vine, good food, etc.

Many believe in the rapture. Those who believe this doctrine will not have been taken to heaven yet, so they will refuse to worship the Beast who says he is Christ. The 'Rapturists' thought that they would escape harm by the rapture, but they will in fact fall prey to the system if they show any resistance to the power!

If you are told to keep this or that day, no matter, keep Christ seven days a week.

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

4 For he (yes, even the Beast and the False Prophet!) is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil (that is go against his rule), be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Romans 13:5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. 6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

This is not the time to take up the sword! Those who do will die by the sword, be warned.

We still have freedom in this era, but that is going to grind to a halt during that 3½ years when the Beast is in power, and we will have to keep our heads down.

POSTSCRIPT.

There is a means of protection that is almost foolproof. There is something that will give us protection for ourselves and for those around us. What is this principle? Christ gave it to us, that we should show love to everybody. Even to those we do not like, and even your enemies. This commandment is much harder, by far, than attempting to keep any part or all of the Mosaic Law.

That love gives us power beyond understanding. Show love even to wild animals, and if they recognize that you love them they will not attack you. We may not like the Anti-Christ, the False Prophet, or anything about the system! But we have to love everyone, that is the whole duty of a Christian.