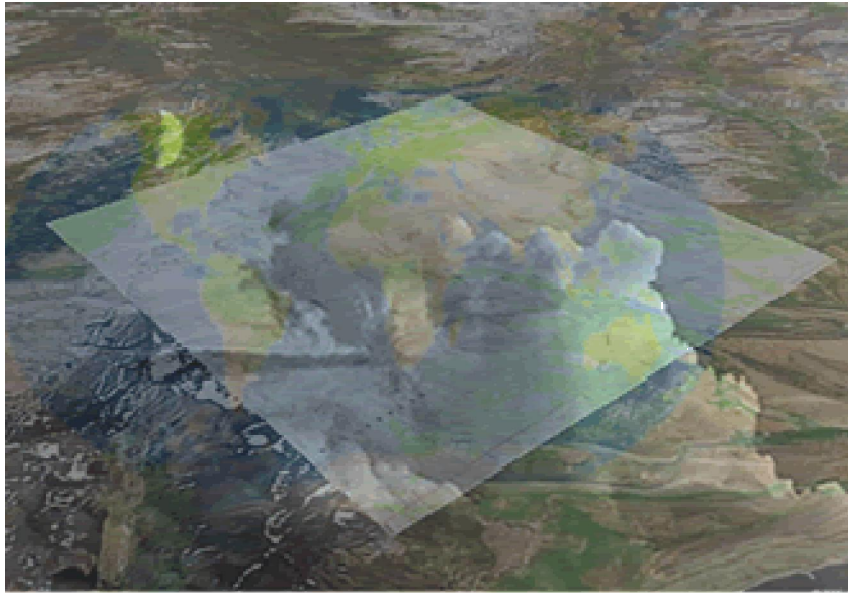




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## The Spiritual Overlay



The Bible is full of prophetic predictions of the Tribulation. Many of these prophecies are hard to comprehend, especially the book of Revelation. To understand prophecy and what is to transpire during the Tribulation, we need to examine what the Bible tells us. Are we to take what the Bible says literally or figuratively? How do we to understand what was written 2,000 years ago for us upon whom the end of the worlds has come?

Let's first assess if the Bible is to be taken literally. All historical data is to be taken literally. Events, times, places, and individuals involved are documented to have really taken place. They are a record of what has happened. All doctrine is to be taken literally. The doctrine of Jesus Christ and what the apostles taught are to be understood and followed literally. There is no question about that.

What about prophecy? Is prophecy to be taken literally? If we look at a literal interpretation of the book of Revelation, we can expect to see a 7 headed beast rise up out of the sea. We will see locusts with the sting of a scorpion torment men? These locusts with scorpion's stings will torment not

all men but only those within the church as shown in the study “The Earth and its Inhabitants.” These locusts would selectively sting only certain people. We will see horses with tails that have the heads of serpents? Does that sound a bit far fetched? Yes, it does. Is it possible? Perhaps, but most likely these events would be improbable.

Let’s examine the premise that prophecy is figurative. Let’s begin with a verse that Paul spoke to us.

**Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. *1Corinthians 10:11***

The word ensamples in the dictionary<sup>1</sup> and in the Greek definition<sup>2</sup> means a pattern or model. In the Greek it additional adds; (figuratively) style or resemblance, or instance (for warning).

A pattern or model, a resemblance, or instance for warning tells us that the historical record of events are to be looked at as a pattern, resemblance, and then it states an instance (for warning). Perhaps warning of the things to come?

These things happened to them as a pattern, a warning for us who are living during the time of the end. Furthermore these things were written for our admonition. Admonition<sup>3</sup> is defined in the Greek as; calling this to our attention, also as a warning. Both of these words, ensample and admonition contain within their definitions “warning.” This is a very important verse that tells us where to begin looking for our answers of how we are to understand these things.

We are to look at the historical records as a pattern, model to follow, a resemblance, and these things are to be a warning to us. Since the historical record is to be taken literally, is the understanding of the pattern to be taken literally?

Let’s take a look at a historical event that occurred during the time of Moses and the plagues. It just happens to contain locusts.

**And Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all that**

night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. [14] And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such. *Exodus 10:13, 14*

This is the plague of locusts that enveloped Egypt and overtook the land. This plague of locusts is stated to have never occurred before or will ever occur again. The fifth trumpet of Revelation is a plague of locusts yet they are a bit different. They have the sting of a scorpion and do not eat the green things. There are differences between the two of them, yet it states that “**neither after them shall be such.**”

These things happened to them as a pattern or resemblance and as a warning for us. When we look at the plague of real locusts in Exodus, this is to be a pattern or resemblance to follow as a model. If this is a pattern, then the locusts in the Fifth Trumpet would have to be figurative and not literal locusts as we know them. Even with the differences between the locusts, they are still locusts.

Another reason that we need to look at prophecy figuratively is given to us by Jesus himself. We need to again look at the parable of the man with a field that sows good seed.

**Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: [25] But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. [26] But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. [27] So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? [28] He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? [29] But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. [30] Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.**  
*Matthew 13:24-30*

Later the disciples ask Jesus to tell them what this parable meant. Jesus then tells them what each of the elements within the parable represented.

**He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; [39] The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. [40] As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. [41] The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; [42] And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. [43] Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. *Matthew 13:37-42***

A parable is defined as an allegory.<sup>4</sup> An allegory<sup>5</sup> is a story in which people, things, and happenings have another meaning. In the Greek, a parable is a similitude.<sup>6</sup>

Jesus himself has given us an example of how to interpret His parables. Each one of the items or objects in the parable represents something else. This tells us that the parables that Jesus spoke are figurative. Figurative is defined as; “representing by means of a figure, symbol, or likeness;” “not in its original, usual, literal, or exact sense or reference; representing one concept in terms of another that may be thought of as analogous with it; metaphorical.”<sup>7</sup>

A metaphor is defined as “implied comparison, in which a word or phrase ordinarily and primarily used of one thing is applied to another.”<sup>8</sup> This explains exactly the example that Jesus used to explain to His disciples what this particular parable meant. He used figures in this story to represent something else. Jesus showed us that He used metaphors.

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: 6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings. {the interpretation: or, an eloquent speech- **Proverbs 1:5**

The Greek definition of parable tells us it is also a similitude. A prophet by the name of Hosea confirms this.

**I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets. Hosea 12:10**

Jesus used similitudes and the Lord states in Hosea that He has used similitudes by the ministry of the prophets. There are similitudes in both the New Testament and the Old Testament that we can decipher. We can also look at the historical events and use them as a model or pattern or a resemblance. When you look up the definition for the word similitude, you will find the definitions; parable, allegory, and resemblance.<sup>9</sup>

This is how we can find out what is going to occur during the Tribulation. By looking at the historical events for patterns, studying the writings of the prophets for metaphorical identifications and patterns, and lastly, looking at the parables of Jesus and determining what each one of the items or objects represent within the parables and the things that Jesus spoke concerning prophetic utterances. This will unlock the mysteries of the Bible and open up a new understanding that has been previously been hidden in plain sight.

When we look at the prophetic in the Bible in this way, we do it through a phrase that Randy has coined “The Spiritual Overlay.” We overlay the metaphorical identifications over the words of the Bible and we can see through this overlay into the spiritual meanings that underlie the words written on the pages of the Bible.

Since we know that the Tribulation is judgement upon the church and not the world as a whole, we can then focus the metaphorical identifications towards that premise. When we do this, the identifications are in harmony with each other throughout the Old and New Testaments. They flow through the parables, the prophetic writings, and the historical events with clarity, uniformity, structure, consistency, and accuracy.

We call this “The Spiritual Overlay” for it deals with the spiritual realm and not the physical realm. It deals with the church and not the world. The Tribulation is focused upon the church, hence the spiritual; not the world, which is the physical. It is a figurative interpretation of the events that are occurring within the spiritual world,<sup>10</sup> yet these are real physical people,

places and events that take place in the physical. It is the metaphorical identifications that tell us what is going to happen, who is involved, and how it will happen.

Let's take another look at the parable of the sower and the field. Jesus showed us what each of the objects represented. Let's now use "The Spiritual Overlay" and apply it to our time.

There are four groups that are in the Tribulation of the church; the 144,000, the Multitude, the Scorpions, and the Serpents. When we look at this parable and are determining who is within this parable, we need to look for each of these groups.

**He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; [39] The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. [40] As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. [41] The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; [42] And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. [43] Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. *Matthew 13:37-42***

When Jesus first puts forth this parable, He states "**The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:**" He is telling us that this is a similitude with the words "is likened." If we were to look at this parable as a literal interpretation, this would be a story about a farmer with a bad weed problem. Yet, we know it is much more than that. It is meant to be interpreted in the figurative using metaphors.

Let's look at each of the players within this parable. There is an owner of the field that sows the good seed. There is wheat. There are tares. There are workers in the field. We have a person that owns the field. Within the field are three items; the wheat, the tares, and the workers.

Jesus Christ represents the sower of the good seed and the owner of the field. The field is the world.

The devil represents the sower of the tares for they are the children of the wicked one which is the devil.

The wheat is the good seed and the children of the kingdom.

The tares are the bad seed and are children of the devil.

The workers are in the field tending to the wheat who want to remove the bad tares but are told to leave them be until the harvest.

This parable though “The Spiritual Overlay” tells us much. It also underscores that the Tribulation comes down upon the church and not the world as a whole.

The field that is owned by Jesus Christ is the church. The wheat is representative of the Multitude. The tares have grown right alongside the Multitude within the church. The tares are not Hindus, Buddhists, or Moslems for they are not in the Christian churches. The tares are apostate Christians who are sitting right next to the true Christians who are the Multitude. This is more evidence that the reference to the world in the prophetic is referring to the church.

These tares/apostate Christians are the Serpents and the Scorpions who are bound together to be burned. The Serpents and the Scorpions are bound together throughout the scriptures speaking about their alliance with each other. They are the children of the devil.

The workers in the field are the 144,000 who tend to the nurturing of the Multitude in preparation of them being harvested and gathered into the Lord’s barn, which is the 7th trumpet when the dead shall be raised.

When we have the proper metaphorical identifications, we apply “The Spiritual Overlay” and can see and understand what this parable is really telling us.

It is an overview of the Tribulation and what occurs. The apostate church that currently holds the Serpents, the Scorpions, and the Multitude, will be divided. The tares will be severed out of the kingdom of heaven. We can

see this in another parable about a net that is cast into the sea in Matthew 13:47.

This would be the same sea that the devil comes down to with great wrath, the sea of Babylon. The net is pulled into shore, the bad are cast away and the good are gathered into vessels. The bad fish are the tares, the good fish are the Multitude. The net is the gathering of the tares and the harvesting of the wheat. The sea is the church. This is the same story, different version. The Lord uses different metaphors within the parables that are consistent throughout the Bible.

Using “The Spiritual Overlay” we look for patterns and identifications to determine the true identity of a person, place or thing. It also gives us the who, what, where, when, and why. When we know these things and how to apply them to the church, we can then begin to see how these interact with the physical world.

This has taken Randy and I almost three years of diligent study to grasp this entire concept. The Lord showed us how it works and how to read it, yet we understood it not. We understood what it was telling us and how it was going to happen, but we didn't know how to put this process into words until now.

Is this a new code like the many “Bible codes” out there? This is a code, but unlike any code out there. You don't need some fancy computer program to count every 4th digit. You don't need to buy a special CD that will teach you this code. This code is within the pages of your Bibles. The only things that you need are a King James Bible (a must), A Strong's Concordance for the definitions of words (a software version is desirable), a regular dictionary is helpful, and your willingness to learn. If you have eyes to see and ears to hear, this is for you!

The Lord even tells us that He is going to let us know what is going to happen before He takes action.

**Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets. *Amos 3:7***

**And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. 3 For the vision is**

**yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie:  
though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.**  
*Habakkuk 2:2, 3*

The Lord has revealed his secret (mystery) by opening our eyes and ears to “The Spiritual Overlay” using the metaphoric Language.<sup>11</sup> The vision is now speaking to us plainly and informing us what is really going to happen. We are meant to understand these things if we have eyes to see and ears to hear, an open heart, a love of the Truth, and a willingness to do what the Lord asks of us. I pray that you do.

Written by Sue Patterson  
The 5th day of the 10th month  
October 2nd, 2008

Tools:

[E-Sword Bible](#)-FREE Bible Software

Strongs Concordance-[E-Sword Module](#)

Webster’s 1828 Dictionary – [Online Search at the University of Chicago](#)

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1. Webster’s New World Dictionary
  2. Strong’s Concordance 5179
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  5. Webster’s New World Dictionary
  6. Strong’s Concordance 3850
  7. Webster’s New World Dictionary
  8. Webster’s New World Dictionary
  9. Webster’s New World Dictionary
  10. See the Study “From the Physical to the Spiritual”
  11. See the study “The Metaphoric Language”