

By Steven J. Hogan

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In recent weeks, you may have heard about North Korea, microchips, and a solar eclipse. But what amazes and saddens me, is when I hear people getting so worried about these things, wondering if the end of the world is right around the corner. It's reminds me of fearful *"Chicken Little"* crying out, *"The sky is falling!"* As Christians, we shouldn't be afraid or confused, for God has already told us what's going to happen, and has even given us a 7-year time frame so we can see where [these things](#) fit in with His endtime plans.

First, let's talk about North Korea. Matthew 24:6-7 tells us, *"You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end."* Jesus goes on to say, *"these things are merely the beginning of birth pains."* Let me explain: these birth

pains are wars, earthquakes, famines and plagues taking place before the end of this age and Christ's coming, and this includes this North Korean conflict. But it's just the *"beginning of birth pains"*, meaning a lot more things, and yes, more wars, need to take place before the rapture of the church.

Second, we read about small rice-sized microchips that for years have been implanted in animals as identification and tracking devices. And now they're putting them in people - but why is this potentially such a big deal? Because Revelation 13:16-17 tells us that *"he (another beast) causes all... to be given a mark on their right hand or forehead."* Now we don't know exactly what this *"mark"* is, but I believe it relates to these microchips that are presently being developed and increasingly being perfected. This beast, together with the devilish Antichrist, will be using this kind of technology, and *"no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark..."* This *"mark"* will be one of the main ways the Antichrist will control people, run the economy, and rule the world during his short dictatorship.

When will this take place? I've previously taught about a 7-year time period called [Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week](#), and right after the midpoint of this week, this mark will be implemented by the Antichrist and this other beast. Now Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week hasn't even started yet, for we're still at the beginning of birth pains. But this mark, this chip, will be ready to use on a global scale, and accepted by society at large when the Antichrist steps out on the world stage. Now Christians will still be on earth at this time, what [Matthew 24:21](#) calls the great tribulation. But be assured, that if you're a true, born again Christian, then you will not and cannot take this mark of the beast. Only unbelievers can take the mark.

Third, there's this coming solar eclipse. Some well-known Christians have actually said this is a sign that judgment is coming on America. And yes, the Bible tells us about *"wonders in the sky"* (Joel 2:31), and that the *"the sun will be darkened..."* (Matthew 24:29) before the Day of the Lord, but this particular solar eclipse is not part of these end of the age cosmic disturbances. Why do we know that? Because the Bible tells us that these heavenly signs will not take

place until after the Antichrist has been revealed, after the mark of the beast is implemented, immediately after the great tribulation, and right before [the rapture](#) of the church. Matthew 24:29-31, Revelation 6:12-7:14

Let me sum it up: As a world, we're now experiencing beginning birth pains, and part of that are these wars and rumors of wars. Then in the near future there'll be a peace treaty between the coming Antichrist and Israel, and this begins Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week. At the 3½ year point of that week, the Antichrist will be revealed, and he'll make non-Christians take the mark of the beast, and also begin great tribulation against both Jews and Christians. Immediately after this great tribulation is cut short, there'll be these warning signs in the heavens, marking the end of this age, the return of Christ, and the rapture of the church. Then God's wrath will be poured out on all the unbelievers living on this earth.

God has told us [ahead of time](#) what's going to take place before the return of His Son. Why? Because He wants us to know He's in control, that He's doing exactly what He has planned to do; and He doesn't want us to worry - He wants us to have peace in our hearts. We need to know that Jesus Christ is coming soon, but I say "soon" in terms of all of human history. The truth is, the Bible tells us a number of things that need to take place before Christ's coming. In the weeks ahead we will be looking closely at many of [these things](#). Hebrews 10:23-25

P.S. Please feel free to check out the many [articles](#) and [charts](#) here on this blog. They are here to help ones understand more fully what the Bible teaches about the return of Christ the King. Also, here is a post about the Good News ~ how a person can [know Jesus Christ](#) now and forever!

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