THE LAST FIVE DAYS: APRIL 14-18, 1993
WHAT THE NEGOTIATION TRANSCRIPTS ACTUALLY REVEAL

Former FBI agent Jeff Jamar testified on July 27 that he would have cancelled the CS Gas operation had there been any evidence that Koresh was working on his Seven Seals treatise following his April 14th pledge to come out. He challenged the congressional committee to listen to the negotiation tapes of the last few days. In fact, the negotiation transcripts show that Koresh was working on the manuscript and that Jamar's testimony, as well as that of agent Byron Sage, was completely in error on this important point. Note the following incontrovertible facts:

Steve Schneider states clearly on Friday afternoon, April 16, that Koresh has finished the first Seal, was working on the second, and that he had SEEN the handwritten papers, around 28-30 pages, as David was working on them (Tape 236, p.29).

Jamar quoted Steve as saying "I haven't even seen the first one" but he took the quote totally out of context. That quote occurs on the same tape (#236, p.2), and it is obvious that Steve means he had not been given it yet to edit, not that David had done nothing. He further says the editing work will "take no time at all" (Tape 234, p.40).

Judy Schneider, who had begun typing the Biblical texts on Friday, April 16th, on a Sharp Word Processor, never seriously proposed that it would take a year to complete the manuscript.

Judy was complaining to the negotiators about not sending in ribbons and fresh batteries for her Sharp Word Processor. They were trying to get her to use an old manual typewriter and she was upset with them, telling them it would take her a year with such outdated equipment. Her statement was obviously made sarcastically, and with a sense of frustration, as part of her complaint (Tape 238, pp. 26-30). She plainly says she had begun typing and had several pages of Scriptures Koresh would use already on the disk. They had batteries to run the Sharp Word Processor, contrary to Byron Sage, and were asking for extras to complete the task (Tape 236, pp. 36-45).

Koresh himself gives negotiator Dwayne a progress report on Saturday, April 17, at around 3pm. He says he has finished the first Seal, is well into the second. David then agrees to send out the first, as an act of good faith, as soon as it is typed (Tape 237, pp. 47-53).

Koresh wanted to send out the whole at once, but works out a specific arrangement with negotiator Dwayne for sending out the first: they agree it will go to his lawyer Dick DeGuerin first, then Arnold and Tabor, with a copy sent back in to David. All the details are worked out late Saturday afternoon. Agent Dwayne goes over the plan with Steve and with David, concluding: "Well, that sounds good. I'm glad we have a common understanding now" (Tape 238, p.16).
Koresh worked Sunday evening, through most of the night, with typist Ruth Riddle, getting the first Seal edited and typed in order to send it out Monday, April 19, the very day of the CS Gas attack.

This is the testimony of Ruth Riddle who survived the fire and carried out her disk with the first Seal nearly completed (letters and conversations with Phillip Arnold), and it is picked up on the surveillance tapes as CS Gas is being pumped into Mt. Carmel. Steve Schneider is talking about trying to get the phone line hooked up so they can arrange to send out the first Seal.

He says, "here's the manuscript; the first one is about completed; it was worked on all last night" (SA 73-4).

The disk Ruth Riddle brought out is unquestionably the one she typed with David late into Sunday night. She testifies to it, and the manuscript itself ends with a pledge to "come out and be revealed to the world."

Ruth Riddle took over typing from Judy Schneider because Koresh was rushing to get the first Seal typed so it could go out Monday, the day of the CS Gas attack. Judy's finger had been injured in the February 28th raid and her typing was somewhat slower than normal. Byron Sage's suggestion that the manuscript might be something written at some previous time shows his total ignorance of David Koresh's theology. Until April 14th, when Koresh received his word to write the Seven Seals, he believed he was absolutely forbidden by Scripture to write his message (Rev 10:4).

Conclusion: These negotiation tapes clearly reveal that Koresh was hard at work on his manuscript, that the negotiators accepted this and were working with him on getting proper supplies (batteries, ribbons, etc.), and that an agreement had even been reached to send out the first Seal ahead of the rest, as an act of good faith. Koresh and Ruth Riddle worked late through Sunday night to complete their agreement, nearly finishing the first Seal.

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DID DAVID KORESH REPEATEDLY LIE TO NEGOTIATORS ABOUT COMING OUT OF MT CARMEL?

Perhaps the single most repeated refrain about Waco goes something like this: "Koresh lied repeatedly about coming out of the compound, he broke his word numerous times, so why should the government believe him on April 14, 1993 when he sent out his written pledge to surrender after completing his Seven Seals manuscript." What is so amazing about this point is that apparently everyone has accepted it, from the Attorney General to the media, without actually checking the only record we have: the 51 days of negotiation tapes made of conversations between Koresh, his assistant Steve Schneider, and the FBI agents. The facts clearly show that Koresh did not repeatedly lie. On the contrary he was absolutely consistent in his statements from March 2 until the last day, April 18th. His position was that he and his followers were coming out, but that they had received the Word from God to wait, and would not leave until Koresh heard otherwise.

Those who try to support this false claim that Koresh repeatedly lied about coming out have come up with a completely distorted use of the evidence. All who listen or read the negotiation tapes or transcripts will clearly see these claims are absolutely false. For example, on July 25, 1995, Rep. Charles Shumer inserted into the record of the congressional hearings the evidence that he claimed showed Koresh lied about coming out on March 2, April 2, and April 14 and that Steve Schneider admits the Koresh lied. It is interesting that even Rep. Shumer, as much as he wishes to push this point home, can only come up with this slim line of "evidence." Note carefully the following:

It is invalid to claim that Koresh lied on April 14, when he sent out his written pledge to surrender, since that is the very instance under discussion: should the FBI have believed him or not and allowed him time to write his manuscript?

This leaves only April 2 and March 2.

On April 2 Koresh is asked by FBI negotiator John-5, "Are you planning on coming out before or after Passover?" Koresh answers, "Well after Passover, naturally" (Tape 192, p. 65). This is a "before or after" question. Koresh is simply telling the FBI that they are not coming out until after Passover, an eight day festival. It is not a broken promise to exit. Indeed, the day after Passover April 14th, Wednesday, when Koresh got his word the WAITING was over and made his pledge to come out.

This leaves only March 2.

It is true that on March 2, after making all the preparations for an exit, Koresh claimed to get his "Word" from God to wait. The Davidians did not consider this a lie, but rather, God telling them what they were to do. Their intentions were to come out, now they believed God had told them otherwise. Steve Schneider never said David lied, what
he said was that he could understand how the outsiders, that is the FBI negotiators, would consider March 2nd a lie, since they do not believe in God speaking directly to His prophets. Clearly Steve did not believe it was a lie, but a postponement of their inevitable exit. This is how they explained it throughout. The whole 51 days in incredibly simple in this regard: They had been told to wait, on April 14 David was told to write: the transcripts/tapes show they were utterly consistent in that position throughout the 51 days. They always said they were coming out, but only when God gave them the word. David repeatedly said: We don’t plan to die in here.

Conclusion:
The many broken promises to come out are simply non-existent. It remains one of the strangest phenomenon of the Waco story that such a lie, if repeated often enough, by enough responsible people, "becomes" the truth to the uninformed. Since no one but a few investigators have actually listened to the tapes or read the 18,000 pages of negotiation transcripts, this distortion grows only stronger. It was repeated just this week by Jeffrey Jamar, Byron Sage, and even Attorney General Reno and is echoed by the media.

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