

February 22, 2025

West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

“Dangerous, Imperceptible Slide Toward Apostasy”



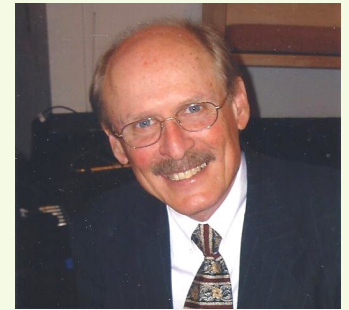
It is said that if you place a frog into boiling water, the frog will immediately jump out of the pot. But if you place the frog into cool water first and gradually increase the heat of the water to boiling, the frog will just sit there and die.

I don't know if this is true — I haven't tried it! But it certainly provides a great illustration of something I do know to be true. Rapid changes in the status quo cause alarm and reaction, but gradual, imperceptible changes in that which is normal and familiar often cause little concern and resistance.

The devil knows how this principle operates in the human experience and has used it extensively in his strategic attacks on the character and message of the Christian Church. And since nothing has elicited more rage from the “dragon” than the saving message of the cross, the proof of his defeat and the source of salvation for those Satan seeks to sweep with him to destruction, the Gospel has been his greatest point of attack. Even in the years following the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Paul, the apostle of the Gospel to the Church, fought those who sought to infiltrate the Church and corrupt the Gospel. His letter to the Galatians gives the account of that fight. The Reformation was a costly fight of the Church to restore the clarity of the Gospel — a fight that cost the lives of more than fifty million followers of Christ. And at the end of time, the Gospel will be at the heart of the fight that separates the world into just two groups, the sheep and the goats, the wheat and the tares, the saved and the lost before Jesus returns. It will be the basis upon which the world is judged.

The Gospel is the story of Jesus and how His doing and dying on behalf of the sinner brings the sinner to a right standing with God — by grace **alone**, through faith **alone**, in Jesus Christ **alone**. You'd think that would not be a point of contention between professed Christians, right? Every Christian church believes that Jesus died for the sinner and through His atoning sacrifice, the sinner is reconciled to God, right? But what if we say that the saving work of Christ for the sinner actually finds its saving power **within** the Christian — that salvation is not only what Christ **did** for

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Pastor Darrell Chilson

“We are living in the season of Christ's return.”

Jesus said, “Watch and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The mission of West Valley Ministries is to help Christ's followers recognize the signs of His approaching return and be prepared for that Great Day.



Our Instructor, Jessica Lindsey

John 17:1-26 NIV

Jesus Prays for Himself

¹ Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

⁶ “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷ Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. ⁸ For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

⁹ “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰ And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We *are*. ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.



Our Instructor, Jessica Lindsey


Jesus Prays for All Believers

20 “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

24 “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. 26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

Discussion Questions:

1. What authority did the Father give the son
2. With this authority what was Jesus’s goal?
3. What do you think it means to be glorified?
4. Reflect on V5, can you find a verse in John that speaks to before the world was? *Hint-look in chapter 1*
5. What does manifest mean? -*to show something clearly, through signs or actions*
6. Versus 7 and 8 What is Jesus saying about his disciples
7. What does Jesus mean when he says “I have kept them in Your name in v12”?00
8. Why was Jesus praying for the disciples? See v13-15
9. What is Jesus petitioning in v11 & v15? Did he pray for the disciples to have an easy breezy life?
10. What does Jesus petition for his believers? see 20-26
11. Did what Jesus asked for occur?



us **outside** of us and completely apart from us, but what the Holy Spirit **does within**, working within the heart and life of the sinner a work of sanctification? Doesn't that sound good? Yet that simple distinction is what determines the difference between the true Gospel of the Bible and the false gospel of apostate Christianity. When what is done within the follower of Christ by the Holy Spirit becomes to any degree the basis of his or her right to heaven, then the work of Jesus for us, as us, on our behalf, becomes less than sufficient for salvation. This doctrine is the basis on which the Church stands or falls. Let me further clarify.

The Catholic Church, which has been a major focus of our prophecy studies and which plays a prominent role in end time events — the Church of Rome **also** teaches that salvation is by grace, **but not alone**; and through faith in Christ, **but not alone**. The Church of Rome teaches that the Scriptures are inspired by God and are authoritative, **but not alone**. She declares the church is the mediator between man and God, that it is the sole interpreter of the Bible, and that tradition and the decrees of the church are integral to the salvation of every soul. And as Satan has used the Church of Rome to bring “her children” (the Protestants) back home to the “mother church,” what appear to be mere technicalities of theology have been compromised by Protestants and Evangelicals alike in the interest of Christian unity and a common **social** mission. It all seems so wonderful — Christian unity and a common mission for all “Christian” faiths! Yet in the interest of “Christian unity and common mission,” the most important tenants of the Christian faith have been abdicated — justification by grace **alone**, through faith **alone**, in Jesus Christ **alone**, and the holy Scriptures **alone** the authority of the Church for the faith and life of the Christian!

And to get back to our original premise, the journey of the professed Church of Jesus Christ has been a dangerous and imperceptible slide toward apostacy and a return to communion and comradery with the church which slaughtered God's children! Little compromises in biblical teaching, moral decay, distractions of lesser consequence, and the temptation of just wanting to “love everyone” and “be friends with everyone” has created imperceptible and insidious compromises which has led the Church away from critical biblical teachings to an alliance with the Antichrist of Bible prophecy. The result has been a “reversal of the Protestant Reformation” and an embracing of common purpose by Protestants, Catholics and Evangelicals — a fulfillment of Bible prophecy which must take place before the end can come!

The Ecumenical Movement has been in motion for decades, but as Vatican II (1962-65) and the efforts of the World Council of Churches sought to bring unity between all “Christian” churches, agreements have been signed by church leaders, Protestant, Catholic and Evangelicals, which document a common denial of biblical teaching among those churches and also bring a unity and common purpose among them which will soon bring about once again the “igniting of the fires of persecution” against those who stand faithful to Jesus Christ and His truth. The stage is fully set — it remains only for the forces of evil to coalesce against the Church and fulfill the purposes of God in bringing an end to evil and the return of Christ to deliver His people. “The time is at hand!”

Resources supporting the premises of this editorial article:

“**Evangelicals and Catholics Together**” — <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/ccd3c8e8-7010-4742-a09f-f31a5a5bb345/downloads/Evangelicals%20and%20Catholics%20Together%201994.pdf?ver=1739652278867>

“**Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification**” — <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/ccd3c8e8-7010-4742-a09f-f31a5a5bb345/downloads/Joint%20Declaration%20on%20the%20Doctrine%20of%20Justifica.pdf?ver=1739652278867>

“**Manhattan Declaration**” — <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/ccd3c8e8-7010-4742-a09f-f31a5a5bb345/downloads/Manhattan%20Declaration.pdf?ver=1739652278867>



“REVELATION IN REVIEW” — Part 14

Revelation 17

Review:

In Revelation 16, the account of God’s final judgments upon those who receive the mark of the beast is given. The three angels of Revelation 14 have given their warnings to “every nation, tribe, tongue, and people” that the “hour of God’s judgment has come.” They have declared the “everlasting gospel” to the world – the message that results in the salvation of all who place their faith in Christ. The messengers of God have made their plea for God’s people to “come out of Babylon,” the conglomerate of false religion, lest they “share in her sins and receive of her plagues” (Revelation 18:4). In chapter 16, the account of these “seven last plagues” is given – judgments of God upon the wicked.

The Scarlet Woman:


Revelation 17 begins with these words:

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, "with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication." So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement Revelation 17:1-6.

John tells us that one of the seven angels of chapter 16 who had participated in the pouring out of judgment plagues is communicating the prophecy of this chapter to him – in view of the nature of the sixth plague, perhaps the angel of that plague (Revelation 16:12-16). Nevertheless, the angel introduces John to “the great harlot,” and in the verses which follow, he tells us who she is.

“She sits on many waters.” Revelation 17:15 says that these “waters” represent the “peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues” of the earth. In verse 3, the angel says that this harlot is “sitting on a scarlet beast.” The “scarlet beast” is the source of her power and support, and the above mentioned nations are the subjects of her power, her intoxicating charm, and her trade in riches and the souls of men.

The harlot is a woman (need I say). In fact, she is the second woman of prophecy, the first being the woman of Revelation 12 who gives birth to our Savior. The two women of prophecy symbolize churches. The harlot of Revelation 17 is the Church of Rome, an apostate, corrupt expression of the Christian faith, just as the woman of Revelation 12 is the Christian Church, the pure “bride of the Lamb” of Revelation 18. And as a harlot is an impure and adulterous woman, so this harlot has “committed fornication with the kings of the earth, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication” Revelation 17:2. This harlot church has enriched herself, achieved her power, and corrupted the



hearts of her subjects with her intoxicating policy, politics, promises and doctrines. She has represented herself as a Christian church, mixing her heresies with enough truth to deceive the unconverted hearts of kings and the gullible hearts of saints longing for the promise of a heavenly home. She has prostituted the Christian faith with pagan doctrine, promising heaven (as if she could) to her faithful subjects and eternally burning hell (as if she could) to those who spurn her authority. She has the blood of saints on her hands for their refusal to confess her self-proclaimed authority and allegiance – all in the name of Christ! She is a harlot, prostituting the Christian faith for her own evil ends! John writes of her,

On her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement. Revelation 17:5, 6.

She is the one responsible for the cruel deaths of more than fifty million followers of Christ during the Reformation years – Christians who dared to claim the Scriptures, not the church, as their only authority; Jesus, not the church, as their only Savior; God’s grace alone, not membership in the church, as their only right to heaven; and faith, not works of **any** kind (including the works of confession to a priest, penance, baptism by the church, indulgences issued by the church, attendance at mass, etc.), as the only means of claiming the grace offered them in Christ. The blood of saints is on her hands, and John saw her “drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.”

The Scarlet Beast:

This “beast” upon which the harlot sits is a “scarlet beast,” another extremely important character in this prophecy.


I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy [claiming to possess the prerogatives of God], having seven heads and ten horns Revelation 17:3.

The beast upon which the harlot sits has the likeness of the beast of Revelation 13:1, which we have previously identified as the **papal** Roman empire. The papal empire is the foundation upon which the harlot church is built – the religious face of the seventh world empire of prophecy in the same way that Christ is the foundation upon which His Church is built – two systems of authority, Christ and Antichrist!

Interestingly, and importantly, this scarlet beast bears the characteristics of both the beast of Revelation 13:1 (the papacy) and the dragon (Satan) of Revelation 12:3:

- 1) It has seven **heads** and ten **horns** – Revelation 13:3; 13:1
- 2) It is scarlet in **color** (no color is attributed to the first beast), representing both its likeness to the harlot in character AND its similarity to the dragon

Please Note: The dragon is described by John as “fiery red” and the beast of this chapter as “scarlet” – two different words in English and Greek. However, the similarity between the two colors is unmistakable. Scarlet is a hue of red and red a hue of scarlet. God promises us, “Though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Isaiah 1:18.

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- 3) The beast of Revelation 13 is nothing more and nothing less than the dragon in human form – a surrogate of the dragon who “gives” the beast “his power, his throne, and great authority” Revelation 13:2. The beast is Satan’s human agency, empowered to do his bidding in “making war with the saints and to overcome them” (Revelation 13:7) in his continuing war against Christ (Revelation 12:7-9).

But there’s more! The angel must have seen a questioning look on John’s face, just as this chapter has caused many a Bible student to feel perplexed. So, the angel says to John,

Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her... Revelation 17:7.

And then the angel tells John some pretty amazing things. He says,


The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition” Revelation 17:8.

This scarlet beast upon which the harlot sits is **much more** than just another reference to the papal empire spoken of previously in Revelation 13:1-10. John “marvels”, and the world “marvels”, because the appearance of this new beast is different than any before! This beast is **like** the beast of Revelation 13, but as is often the case in the prophecies of the Bible, this prophecy describes not just one, but two characters – the Papacy in its end time role **and** the Devil who “gave him his power, his throne, and great authority” in his end time role. Though the harlot and the papacy represented by the first beast of Revelation 13 are merely different “poses” of the same power, this beast is now, as it were, a reincarnation of the dragon in reverse – the dragon himself becoming the visible beast with seven heads and ten horns that he is seen as in Revelation 12! The angel promised John he would tell him the “mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her” and then proceeds to do so in the next verse:

The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is Revelation 17:8.

Let’s unpack this!

- 1) “The beast that you saw was and is not.” Until Calvary, the Dragon (Devil) “was.” He even appeared in person to Jesus in the wilderness and sought to tempt Him to sin and thus destroy His chances of being our Savior. But at Calvary, “The prince of this world [was] cast down” John 12:31; “The ruler of this world was judged” John 16:11; and Jesus said, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven” Luke 10:18. At the time of the writing of Revelation, the Devil “was not” – Christ’s “defeat” at Calvary was in fact Satan’s defeat as a controlling force in the world. His power and authority was broken, and his doom sealed by Jesus’ death and resurrection from the dead! And though Satan continued to war against Christ and His followers through his subjects and surrogate agencies, he is a defeated enemy! He “is not” — since Calvary!
- 2) Yet, he “will ascend out of the bottomless pit, [then] go to perdition.” Under the 5th Trumpet of Revelation 9, “the fallen angel,” “the angel of the bottomless pit” (Revelation 9:11), Satan, is




“**given** the key to the bottomless pit,” released from his confinement to create havoc on those who have the mark of the beast, and launch his final campaign to deceive the world into believing his sophistries and lies — all soon before he “goes to perdition.”

- 3) “Those who dwell on the earth will **marvel** when they see the beast that was, and is not, **and yet is!**” (emphasis added). **Q:** And what will cause them to marvel? **A:** In the interest of Christ’s final “face-off” with Satan in this war which began in heaven and which will end with Satan’s eternal doom, Christ allows Satan to make his appearance on earth, before the world, as his final deceptive act, “appear as an angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14), and attempt to “deceive the whole world” Revelation 12:9.
- 4) This is again confirmed in Revelation 17:11 where the angel says, “The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eight, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.” **Q:** Who are the “seven” of this verse? **A:** The seven world empires represented by the seven heads of the dragon and the 5)beast – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, pagan Rome, and papal Rome. **There are no other world empires mentioned in Bible prophecy!** Papal Rome is the last – **yet not the last!** Satan himself will make his appearance in a final display of deception to gain as many subject followers as possible before the “war” is over – as many as he can steal from his Adversary, Jesus Christ! This is huge! This prophecy indicates that Satan himself will make a visible, personal appearance at the end. He is permitted by God to do so, and it will be his final, grand deception, no longer entrusting his work to human agencies alone! As “an angel of light,” he will lead the world through his deceptive persona to follow him, “the eighth” of the “seven” to destruction. Jesus warned us that he would “deceive, **if possible**, the very elect!”

In the final verses of this chapter, the relationship of the “kings of the earth” with the “beast” on which the “harlot” sits is described. We must note, as before, that the beast, the harlot, and Babylon – “that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth” are terms/names which apply to the same organized system of false religion representing the “dragon” in human form – as his surrogate. The different names only reflect different “poses” of the same larger power. The beast is the system of “Antichrist” throughout the history of the Church (Old Testament and New). The beast has seven heads, representing the seven world empires mentioned above, ending with papal Rome – all empires used by the dragon who is also portrayed in Revelation 12 with seven heads and ten horns. The papacy is the final empire to oppose Christ and His Church before Jesus returns, and bears all the attributes of the empires before, but becomes the final human expression of the Dragon and is thus identified as **the** beast in Revelation 13.

The ten horns on the seventh head of the beast represent “ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet [as of the time of John, the writer], but they receive authority for one hour [a very short time] as kings with the beast” Revelation 17:12. Verse 13 says, “These [kings] are of one mind, and they will give their power to the beast” for just a short time and at the very end of time. But when “the purposes of God are complete and the words of God are fulfilled” (verse 17), these kings of earth will turn on the harlot who has “used them,” and will hate her, make her desolate, and destroy her (verse 16). They will see at last how they have been duped and used by the harlot, and in their rage, they will destroy her – “burn her with fire!” Revelation 17:16.



A Couple of Final Observations

Remember that there are only three leading characters in the Book of Revelation who make war against Christ and His Church —

- 1) **The “fiery red dragon with seven heads and ten horns”** of Revelation 12 — **Satan** — also named the “angel king of the bottomless pit” in Revelation 9; also called the “scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns” of Revelation 17; and “eighth head” of that same scarlet beast, in the same way the papacy is both “the beast” of Revelation 13:1-10 and the seventh head of that beast. What’s new in Revelation 17 is in name only. Most of the characters of Revelation are called by different names in different scenes as they play different roles and are seen in different “poses.”
- 2) **The “beast with seven heads and ten horns”** of Revelation 13:1-10 — **The Papacy, the Church of Rome** — also called “Antichrist” in the language of Christendom today; also named “the great harlot” and “Babylon the great” in Revelation 14 and 17-19.
- 3) **The false prophet** of Revelation 13:11-18 “who causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast” — described as the third member of the [false trinity] of Revelation 16:15; called the “two-horned beast” [America] that “looks like the Lamb” and also “speaks like the dragon” in Revelation 13; and who becomes an integral part of the larger “Babylon” of later chapters.

In Revelation 17, the first beast of Revelation 13 with seven heads and ten horns becomes the “great whore/harlot,” and the great red dragon of Revelation 12 with seven heads and ten horns becomes the “scarlet beast” with seven heads and ten horns, giving the harlot her power and support and authority as he did to the beast of Revelation 13:1-10! The harlot of Revelation 17, or the “mother of harlots,” has “Babylon” written on her forehead, identifying her as the mother of false religion. She it is who, in the end, persuades Protestants and Evangelicals to become daughters of false Christianity and ultimately becomes the very symbol of all false religion, as she unifies the world under her spell.

You can see how important this chapter is in bringing into the “vortex” of prophecy all the evil powers who play on the eschatological stage at the end of time, as they spiral downward to their judgment and doom!

In chapter 18, Babylon, which at the end includes not just the Church of Rome but the entire coalition of all false religion – Catholicism, apostate Protestantism, corrupted evangelicalism, and all the false religions of the world – Babylon comes under the judgment of God. That is our study for next week.

Stay tuned!