

January 18, 2025

West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

"Make It Simple"

For several weeks, Sammy and I have been reading together Billy Graham's autobiography — a book of over 1200 pages! We have been amazed to hear his life story as we have read aloud each evening. His accounts of campaigns all around the world, drawing sometimes as many as a million listeners, and always tens of thousands; the thousands of people who responded to his message of salvation, accepting Christ as their personal Savior; the people he knew personally, and others with whom he had direct access to and personal encounters with — we never realized how close he was with presidents and world dignitaries — all the presidents of our day plus other world leaders. His life story has been amazing, and we're not finished yet!

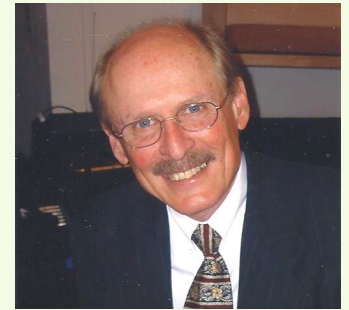
But as I've read these stories of his life and his message, the many who responded, and the influence he had in the world, I couldn't help but notice how very simple Billy Graham made the Gospel. His message had three main points:

- 1) We are all lost and without hope because of our sin
- 2) Jesus came to our world, lived among us, then died for our sins
- 3) If we place our faith in Him, He will forgive our sins, save us, give us a new life, take us to heaven when He returns, and death need never be feared again

He made it just that simple! And while I have always needed to know how God can save a sinner like me and still be just — what it is about Jesus and what He did for me that would enable me to be the sinner I am and still be granted eternal life, the majority of the world of Billy Graham's day simply needed to know that Jesus is their Savior, and He will save them if they accept Him into their lives.

When I first heard the Gospel from a Christian leader one afternoon more than 50 years ago — a story I had never heard just like he told it, I could hardly believe what he told me was true, and I couldn't wait to get home and read it from the Bible myself. It was true — it is true! The biblical account of how God saves sinners is true, and it's simple enough for a child to understand, and rich enough for a serious Bible student to spend his whole life studying to gain the deepest understanding of God's amazing grace, and His Gift to us in the person of His Son!

In Him,
PC



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

Greetings all!

Thank you so much for an engaging Bible study 01/11. We had an **amazing** discussion!

For those who were able to make it, you know there is some homework! Below is a recap of the assignments. Everyone is responsible for the first one, and additional thoughts and comments are welcomed for the individually specific questions. **Feel free to rely to this email to share if you'd like to do so before next week (never hurts to get an early start!).** Please reach out with questions or comments! **Praying for you all, have a safe week.**

All- John 14:13-14 says "*12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*" Wow! That's a big promise, lets unpack it.

Q1 - How should Christians interpret these two verses?

Q2 - Who is Jesus talking to?

Jessica — To what extent should we take council in our leaders? Do we have an obligation to fact check? It's all the same book but there are so many differences in denominations! Look up verse to support how we should personally study the Bible.

Jim — While we are saved by grace alone, could our works on Earth have impact in heaven? Locate verses which could be interpreted to mean that we'll have "stations", "roles", or "hierarchy" in heaven.

Best regards,

Jess

PS - If you are receiving this email and haven't joined before but would like to learn more, please feel free to reach out at biblestudy@wvetm.com



“REVELATION IN REVIEW” — Part 9

Revelation 13


In the thirteenth chapter of Revelation, all the evil end-time players are named and their cooperative roles described – the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet – AND the world power which cooperates in Satan’s final assault on the followers of Christ before He returns.

The first few verses of the chapter give a description of a beast with seven heads and ten horns which rises out of the sea – a term used in Bible prophecy to signify the populated areas around the Mediterranean Sea, or the “Great Sea.” The likeness of this beast to the “dragon” in the previous chapter is intentional, and verse 2 says, “the dragon gave him [the beast] his power, his throne, and great authority.” This is extremely significant in understanding that which follows.

As noted in our study of chapter 12, the seven heads on this beast represent its solidarity with the six previous world empires which the dragon, Satan, has used throughout the centuries to persecute and hold captive the people of God – from the days of the birth of the nation of Israel in Egypt. The likeness of the “beast” to the “dragon”, is practically a mirror image, and is nothing less than the “incarnation” of a fallen angel into the form of a human system which does the bidding of the dragon, with his power and great authority. Satan has always used human agencies to carry out his efforts to destroy Christ and His followers from the beginning. The seven world empires he has used are represented by the seven heads of the dragon, and the seven heads of the beast of chapter 13 represent a composite of, and a solidarity with, the dragon and all the previous world empires, it being the last of the seven. We have previously identified these empires as Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, pagan Rome, and finally papal Rome – three of these empires actually named in the Book of Daniel.

According to John’s description of this beast, it is a blasphemous power. Revelation 13:1 says, “On his heads [was] a blasphemous name.” Blasphemy by definition is a religious term describing the assumption of the prerogatives and authority of God. As John continues his prophecy from chapter 13 through chapter 18 of this power, it is clear that this world empire is none other than the Church of Rome – a religious empire with both civil and religious in nature. The blasphemous claims of the papacy are beyond comprehension – claiming to forgive sin, professing to transform the wafer and the wine into the very body and blood of Christ (the human creating the Creator!), and teaching its adherents that the Catholic Church is the dispenser of God’s grace and the door to heaven! This world empire will have authority over the entire world at the end of time.

Though this segment of our series is not intended to be a thorough treatise on the subject we are “reviewing” (this is, after all “Revelation In Review”), it is worthy to note the meaning of verse 3 where John speaks of one of the heads of the beast being “wounded,” and then “healed.” For 1,260 years, from 538-1798 AD, the Church of Rome (the papacy) reigned supreme over the nations of Europe and those surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, fulfilling the prophecy of Revelation 12:14. But in 1798, General Berthier, Napoleon’s Chief of Staff, took the pope captive with the intent of ending the papacy’s reign of power, and the pope died the next year in prison. Ultimately the papal states, over which the Church had ownership and civil and religious authority, became the property of the Italian government, and not until 1929 did Mussolini restore civil



Authority to the papacy, under the Lateran Treaty, establish Vatican City as a sovereign state, and compensate the Church for the confiscation of its former holdings. This history is what is fulfilled in the prophecy of Revelation 13:3.

Two other points which must be made on this passage regarding the beast from the sea are as follows:


- ◆ The prophecy says that this evil power will make war against the saints, the followers of Christ, at the end for “forty-two months” or three-and-a-half-years. This same time prophecy is spoken of in Daniel 12 and in Revelation 11, and represents the last three-and-a-half-years of time on earth before Jesus returns – a time also of judgments upon the earth, the persecution of the Church, and the powerful ministry of God’s special messengers, calling the world to allegiance to, and the “worship” of, Jesus Christ.
- ◆ During this same time period, the people of the world will be choosing who they will “worship” and give their allegiance to – the Creator or the beast imposture – Antichrist. The prophecy indicates that, “All the world will marvel and follow the beast” and “all who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life.”

The final eight verses of this chapter speak of the “two-horned beast from the earth” – America, as we have previously indicated. The two horns represent two divisions of power within this world power, a likeness to the Lamb (Christianity) and the voice of the Dragon (an anti-Christian, draconic influence); and the birth from “the wilderness”, or unpopulated region of the earth, providing a refuge of religious freedom during the reign and persecution of the papacy in Europe. At the end of time, America will become the False Prophet of Revelation, appearing to be Christian, yet compromised and corrupt with the “doctrines of devils” and intolerant of those who oppose its religious and political authority. There will be what appear to be legitimate cause for persecuting those who fail to comply with the dictates imposed, just as we experienced in the COVID era, which will appear to justify its intolerance. Some of the events which will cause America to demand compliance with its attempts to bring stability and safety in the nation through unconstitutional mandates will include chaos created by bloodshed, famine, pestilence, and economic changes.

America, the dominant world power on the planet at end of time, will play its prophetic role in leading the world to follow and “worship” the beast. And for America to have that kind of influence in the world, it must rise to a position of world dominance – something that is occurring RIGHT NOW under the new leadership of our nation. America has historically been a power to contend with, but NEVER BEFORE has our nation been so close to world DOMINANCE as it is today. This America is moving onto the world stage in a way which will soon allow it to influence the entire world to do its bidding, ultimately recognizing the papacy in its return to a reign of terror over “the noncompliant religious element”, and its control of world politics, as in previous centuries. This is the prophecy of the Word of God, and it is sure!

Finally, never has our nation had the distinction it has right now of “looking like the Lamb” and “acting like the Dragon” – the two characteristics which MUST accompany its strength and powerful voice in the world. We are witnessing prophecy being fulfilled! All the factors necessary for America to fulfill its destiny on the eschatological stage are in place – morally, financially, technologically, religiously, politically, and authoritatively. We are truly living in the “season of Christ’s return!”

Stay tuned!



now is the ruler of this world will be cast out” John 12:31. Let’s never forget, in our battle against “the prince of this world”, that **he is a defeated foe**. As Christians, we are no longer subject to his power, his tricks, his deceptions, or his enticements! He was defeated at Calvary, and is soon to be destroyed forever in the fires of hell! Satan knows this, and that realization has caused him to double down on his efforts to destroy the end-time Church – the bride of Christ – through deception and outright assault.

From Calvary to the return of Christ, the followers of Christ would “overcome” the enemy of their souls “by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.” And for God’s people, though their testimony would result in the rage of Satan and his agents against them, even to death, the story of Christ would be the guarantee of their victory, and their attitude, as seen throughout the ages, would be, “they loved not their lives even unto death!” These are the words of this prophecy!

The War In Heaven

For the details of how such a thing could possibly happen in heaven, see Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:11-19.

The Church of the Middle Ages

And so we look back on history as Satan sets the stage for his deadly assault on the Church of the Middle Ages. He began by introducing error and falsehood into the Church. John speaks of this in his letters to the Church, and Paul describes this as well. He, Satan, used Rome to persecute the Church, and through the centuries which follow, he corrupted Christianity and set up a false religion that bears the name of Christ – deceiving the world by making an evil system appear godly and charitable. The Church of Rome became his instrument of assault on the followers of Christ, and for 1260 years (538-1798 A.D.) he used false, corrupt Christianity to slaughter tens of millions of Christ’s followers. Revelation 12:14-16 describes the Church of Christ pursued by the Dragon during the Middle Ages. And again, many of God’s people find refuge in “the wilderness” – isolated places of protection. In fact, America itself, a “wilderness” at that time, became a bastion of freedom.

The Church of the Last Days

Revelation 12:17 describes the final chapter in the War between Satan and Christ, in the person of His Church. This verse says, “And the dragon was **enraged** with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest [remnant] of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God [all of them!] and have the testimony of Jesus Christ [the Gospel of Scripture].” The Church of the last remnant of time on earth will be faithful to Jesus Christ and will have the story of His saving grace on their lips! And the fourth commandment of God’s Law, the seventh-day Sabbath, will be integral to their “worship of Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water” – a quote from the fourth commandment! Exodus 20:11; Revelation 14:7.

Next week we study Revelation 13 – the “Axis of Evil” at war against the “remnant” of Jesus Christ.

Stay tuned!