

June 29, 2024

West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

“THE ART OF WINNING AN ARGUMENT”

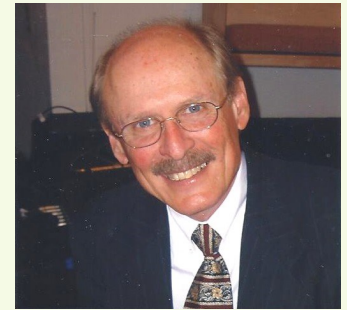
Anyone with any convictions on literally any issue of life will eventually be faced with a need to defend their views before critics. If you're following the politics of our nation today, you likely have some strong opinions about what's wrong with our republic and who should be holding the executive, legislative, and judicial offices in America. This is a volatile time in our nation when emotions are high and political loyalties are strong — so much so that it's difficult to have a conversation with either family or strangers without wanting to talk about the things that are foremost in your thoughts. And not only do you want to defend your position, you likely also want to persuade others to embrace your views.

Can you imagine how the “woman of Samaria” must have felt when she, a woman with a tawdry past and tainted reputation, sought to convince the people of Sychar that she had just met the “Savior of the world” at Jacob's well? You can almost hear the responses of her listeners — “Oh, sure!” — “Why should we believe you?” — “Woman, you're out of your mind!” — “You're so gullible!”

Yet the story that John tells us about the effect her story had on the entire town of Sychar is remarkable. John says that when the woman told the people of the town Who she had just met, “They went out of the city and came to Jesus” at the well. “And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the [testimony] of the woman!”

Listen! There is nothing more powerful in persuading others to see your point of view than your personal passionate witness of what YOU have experienced! And as a Christian, to whom Jesus has commissioned the telling of His story to your world, THERE IS NOTHING MORE COMPELLING, NOTHING MORE PERSUASIVE THAN THE RECOUNTING OF YOUR OWN ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST AND HOW HIS STORY HAS TRANSFORMED YOUR LIFE!

In Him,
Pastor Chilson



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.”***

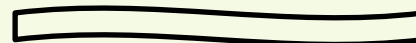
***The mission of
West Valley Minis-
tries is to help
Christ's followers
recognize the signs
of His approaching
return and be pre-
pared for that
Great Day.***



THE SAMARITAN EVANGELIST

John 4 — Part 2

27 And at this [point] His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" **28** The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, **29** "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" **30** Then they went out of the city and came to Him. **31** In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." **32** But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." **33** Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him [anything] to eat?" **34** Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. **35** "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and [then] comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! **36** "And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. **37** "For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' **38** "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors." **39** And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I [ever] did." **40** So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. **41** And many more believed because of His own word. **42** Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard [Him] and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."



- 1) Compare John 4:9 with John 4:27. Why was Jesus' motive for talking to the woman of Sychar puzzling — to the woman first, then to the disciples?
- 2) Of what significance is it that the woman left her waterpot at the well when she went back into Sychar?
- 3) What would you be willing to leave if necessary to follow Christ in whatever way He called you to follow Him? See Mark 10:29, 30.
- 4) List the sequence of events in verses 28-30. Do you see any principles of evangelism here?
- 5) Do you think Jesus was hungry and thirsty when He and His disciples first arrived at the well? What had changed by the time the food had arrived?
- 6) How is Jesus using the terms "food" and "harvest" in verses 34 and 35? Have you seen Him use this kind of figurative language in other stories?
- 7) Do you see any lessons in soul-winning in verses 36-38?
- 8) How did the witness of the woman make the people of Sychar curious? How did their curiosity ultimately lead them to faith in Christ in verses 39-41?
- 9) What convinced the people of Sychar that Jesus was "indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world?"
- 10) Compare verse 42 with Peter's confession of Jesus in Matthew 16:13, and John the Baptist's confession of Jesus in John 1:34?



“THE AXIS OF EVIL – THE DRAGON”

On September 1, 1939, World War II was sparked when Nazi Germany invaded Poland. The war quickly became a global conflict between two alliances – the Allies and the Axis Powers. During the course of the **war**, numerous **battles** were fought. Among them the most familiar were Pearl Harbor, Midway, Normandy, Battle of the Bulge, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

The **war** lasted for six long years. It ended only when Allied armies invaded Germany and took Berlin, forcing Nazi surrender; AND when Hiroshima and Nagasaki were decimated by atomic bombs, forcing Japan’s surrender. The **war** was officially over on September 3, 1945. When the Axis Powers ultimately surrendered, 20 million soldiers and 40 million civilians were dead. One **war** had been fought, and finally won, but only after many **battles**.

So it has been with the **war** between good and evil, which has lasted six long millennia. The **war** between Christ and Satan began in heaven before the creation of the world, when Lucifer presumed to muster the loyalty of 1/3 of the angels of heaven in rebellion against the government of God:


“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the Dragon; and the Dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great Dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Revelation 12:7-9.


During the course of this one **war**, still raging here on earth today, many **battles** have been fought. Satan is the aggressor, and the story finally ends with the decimation of the Axis Powers of Evil and by the invasion of Christ with the armies of heaven. Many **battles** have raged throughout the ages, but the last **battle** will be the Battle of Armageddon:

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs [coming] out of the mouth of the Dragon, out of the mouth of the Beast, and out of the mouth of the False Prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, [which] go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to *the battle* of that great day of God Almighty. "Behold, I am coming as a thief...." And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon. Revelation 16:13-16.

In our last issue, we spoke of the end time **Axis of Evil**, which we identified as the **alliance of “the Dragon, the Beast, and the false prophet.”** In this issue our focus will be the **Dragon**. We will discover the identities and the roles of the other two characters in following issues.

Relevant to our study in this segment are four important principles in the study of prophecy:

- 1) The **characters** of prophecy are often **“masked”** but their **actions** are **literal**.
 - 2) The Bible often clearly identifies these masked characters, enabling us to extrapolate the identity of other characters.
 - 3) There is just one WAR – one conflict currently in progress in our world today – the War between Christ and Satan, between the followers of Christ and the followers of Satan. **All else in prophecy, and in life as we are experiencing it today, must be seen with that in mind.**
 - 4) Until the very last scenes of this drama when Satan will make his personal appearance on the stage, Satan will always use human agents to carry out his evil designs.
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In the case of the **Dragon**, our present character of interest, all these principles apply. Let us see how these principles pertain to this discussion:

- 1) The Dragon is spoken of in the Book of Revelation thirteen times. And in this case of this character, we don't have to guess who this primary player in the Axis of Evil is, because he is clearly identified by name in Revelation 12:9:

“The great Dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world.”

- 2) In addition, it is clear that Satan uses human agencies to accomplish his designs against Christ and His Church in Revelation 12:1-4:

“A woman, being with child, cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. And behold, a great, fiery red Dragon. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the Dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.” [Passage shortened].

While the prophecy says, “the Dragon stood before the woman”, in reality Herod, an instrument of Rome, was the one who issued the decree to slaughter the babies in Bethlehem, in an effort to destroy the infant Christ. Herod was the human agency used by the Dragon to destroy Christ at the time of His birth!

- 3) In Revelation 13:2 we are told that the second character in the Axis of Evil (the Beast) receives “his power, his throne, and great authority” from the Dragon. The Beast, a character we will study next time, is a surrogate power of Satan and must be seen as such. This second power is **evil**, and just as Herod was the surrogate of the Dragon in Chapter 12, the Beast is the surrogate of the Dragon in Chapter 13.
- 4) Finally, the same Dragon who made war against Christ in Revelation 12:7-9 – the same Dragon who made war against Christ as an infant in Revelation 12:1-4 – this same Dragon makes war against the end time followers of Christ in Revelation 13:5, 7:

“And he [the Beast] was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to make war with the saints for forty-two months [three-and-a-half years] and to overcome them.”

In conclusion, Satan is the Dragon who forms a coalition – “an alliance” with the Beast and the False Prophet at the end of time, with the intent of persecuting and destroying those who represent Jesus Christ in the earth. At the end, the Dragon, in the person of his surrogates, will pursue the messengers of Christ – the “Two Witnesses; the 144,000 – **to the death**, and in our age. He will never surrender to the authority of Christ until he is forced to his knees by the “Allied armies of heaven” as Jesus returns as “King of Kings and Lord of Lords” and as the final Battle of Armageddon comes to its victorious conclusion.

Join us each week (2 p.m. Pacific and Arizona Time; 5 p.m. Eastern Time; 4 p.m. Central Time; 3 p.m. Mountain Time) for our class discussions. Click: <https://westvalleyend-timeministries-511.my.webex.com/meet/pastor> to join. To receive our weekly newsletter, please send an email with “Subscribe to Newsletter” in the subject line to: Pastor@wvetm.com. **HELP US BUILD OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY OF FAITH!**