

July 6, 2024

West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

"FAITH AT ITS BEST"

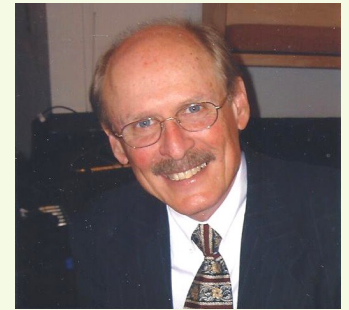
Recently our family watched the movie, "His Only Son," the story of the life of Abraham from the age of 75 to 120 years. The story of Abraham and the offering of his son Isaac on Mount Moriah is a shadow story in the Old Testament of the story of another Father's offering of his Son on Mount Calvary.

As we watched the story of Abraham and Isaac portrayed in the movie, I couldn't help but marvel at Abraham's faith in God during the years from the first promise of a son to the sacrifice of Moriah. Abraham and Sarah had waited 25 years for God to fulfill His promise of a son! Even the most devout believer would certainly have lost hope as the years ticked by – as Abraham and Sarah, a barren woman, passed the age of possibility to have a child. Yet Abraham continued to unwaveringly trust God's promise until the son was given. Then, 20 years later when God asked Abraham to offer up as a sacrifice his promised son – an unthinkable, unimaginable request, Abraham trusted God once again, "concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he [had] also received him in a figurative sense (**from a dead womb**)." Hebrews 11:19.

In the story of today's study, the story of the nobleman of Capernaum (John 4), we have another example of "faith at its best." The nobleman in this story did not need to see with his eyes the miracle of Christ to believe! He only needed the word of Jesus that his son was healed! And once he heard the words of Christ, he walked the 15 miles back to his home in Capernaum, trusting that his son would be healed. His faith was ultimately rewarded with sight, but seeing the miracle is not what created his faith. It was **only** the promise of Jesus!

This lesson in faith, as exemplified in the lives of the followers of Christ throughout the ages, is what God is looking for in those who will live through the unimaginable crisis ahead that leads to the return of Jesus. Now is the time for the followers of Christ to practice a life of faith in "the faithful One," believing **without seeing** the faithfulness of Christ and the truth of His Word. We too must learn to "live by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7), if we are to survive what's just ahead!

In Him,
Pastor Chilson

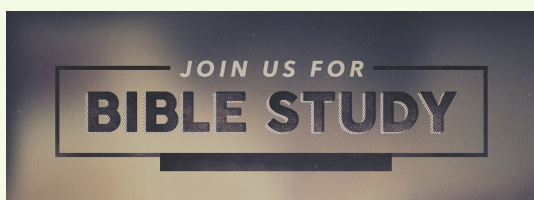


Pastor Darrell Chilson

***"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 FAITH OF THE NOBLEMAN


John 4 — Part 3

43 Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee. **44** For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. **45** So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast.

46 So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. **47** When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. **48** Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you [people] see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." **49** The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!" **50** Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. **51** And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told [him], saying, "Your son lives!" **52** Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." **53** So the father knew that [it was] at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household. **54** This again [is] the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.



- 1) What "two days" (verse 43)? Note the context of the story. Where had Jesus been the last two days (John 4:40, 41)? And where was He headed? And why? (See John 4:1-3).
- 2) What three towns are mentioned in this story — one of which is only eluded to?
- 3) Where was Jesus' "own country" (verse 44)? And how was life different for Him there compared to the rest of Galilee? (See Luke 4:16-30).
- 4) How was He received in Galilee in general? How had He been received in Samaria?
- 5) What feast is being referred to in verse 45? What had happened during that feast, and how do you think that affected His decision to go to Galilee? (See John 2:13-18).
- 6) Where was Jesus when the nobleman came to Him to beg Him to heal his son? Where had the nobleman come from? Note the distance he had traveled to find Jesus — 15 miles!
- 7) In verse 48, Jesus seems to initially brush off the request of the nobleman. Why? And how did the nobleman respond in verse 49?
- 8) The nobleman was a dignitary, a person of influence and status, and likely a Gentile. What does this say about the kind of people who were demonstrating such faith in Christ — first the Samaritan woman, now possibly an officer of the court of Herod!
- 9) What do you think it was that caused the nobleman to accept the word of Christ and return home without questioning whether or not his son would be healed?
- 10) How did his faith affect his family?



“THE AXIS OF EVIL – THE BEAST” Part 1

In 1943, as World War II was at its height of engagement, Italy was under the control of the Axis powers – fascist Italy (under Mussolini) and Nazi Germany. A major victory for the Allied forces was achieved by deceptive strategy when British intelligence obtained the body of a man who had died from eating rat poison and dressed him up as an officer of the Royal Marines. Personal items identifying him as the fictitious “Captain Martin,” along with official British correspondence indicating that the Allies were planning to invade Greece, were placed upon the body of the dead man who was then strategically floated ashore off the southern coast of Spain. As a result of unwittingly “finding” this man, German intelligence sent extensive military reinforcements to Greece, leaving Sicily unprotected. The Allies then launched an attack on Sicily, instead of Greece, and successfully took it from the Nazis, a battle that ultimately led to the control of Italy by the Allies. **Because the allies were able to take the eyes of the Nazis off of the target of their assault, they were able to take Sicily and win a major victory in the war.**

With all that is happening in our nation and in our world at this very moment, it is no wonder that the eyes of the world are far from focused on the eternally consequential threats just before us, as predicted by the prophecies of Scripture. All we can see with our senses is the visible political unrest, a divided country, unobstructed invasion of dangerous migrants, a military on high alert, far reaching Supreme Court decisions, conflicts that threaten the security of our nation, and the threat of national “economic freefall.” *Washington Post July 1, 2024.* But deep beneath the surface of the visible is the unnoticed activity of the Axis of Evil – the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet.


The apostle Peter warns us, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil [the Dragon of Revelation] walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). John the Revelator tells us that “the Dragon, called the Devil and Satan, **deceives** the whole world!” Revelation 12:9.


As important as the events transpiring in our world this very day are in preparing the way for the “signs and wonders which will deceive if possible even the elect” (Matthew 24:24), we cannot take our eyes off of the real threats, “the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet,” who are even now preparing to **deceive** the whole world and sweep as many as possible into their net of destruction.

So, in our last segment we “unmasked” the Dragon. In this edition of our newsletter, we will seek to “unmask” the Beast – the second player in this threesome of evil world powers. And as we thus proceed, we will begin our study with the actual text of the prophecy:

Revelation 13:1-3 – 1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. 2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like [the feet of] a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. 3 ...And all the world marveled and followed the beast.”

Just these three verses give us an incredible amount of information about this power. Let's look at some of the identifying characteristics of this Beast as revealed in this passage:



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- 1) The Beast “rises up out of the sea.” Other translations say, “comes up out of the sea,” indicating its origins of its existence. In Revelation 13:11, another beast, or power, “comes up out of the earth.” The contrasting locations of origin are significant, as we will see when we study the last portion of Revelation 13 – a passage that identifies the False Prophet.
 - 2) The Beast has seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns are **ten** crowns. It's extremely important to note that in the previous chapter, the **Dragon** has seven heads and ten horns and **seven** crowns upon his heads. It is no accident that these two characters, the Dragon and the Beast, have such similar descriptive characteristics, for the latter is nothing less than the incarnation of the Devil in human form. In fact, “the Dragon [gives the Beast] his power, his throne, and great authority.”
 - 3) On the heads of the Beast is a blasphemous name, indicating the blasphemous nature of this power – a power that assumes the prerogatives of God – “who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians 2:4). In verse 3 of this same passage, Paul calls this power, “the **man** of sin... the **son** of perdition,” and in verses 9 and 10, he says, “the **lawless one** is according to the work of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous **deception**.” The description of this blasphemous power is so like the Dragon, yet he manifests human characteristics. The Beast is a human power that exhibits the character of the Dragon and **acts as his surrogate in human form**. We will see this even more as we continue our study of this character.
 - 4) In Revelation 13:2, the Beast is “like a leopard, a bear, and like a lion.” It is a composite of the idolatrous empires of history as seen in the book of Daniel – the lion, representing Babylon; the bear, representing Medo-Persia; and the leopard, representing the Grecian empire, out of which comes the “little horn” power – Daniels imagery of Antichrist. **The Beast of Revelation 13:1 is the Anti-christ of our time!**
 - 5) The remaining verses of this portrait of the Beast in Revelation 13:3-10 identify a world power that’s:
 - ◇ Marvelled at – held in awe
 - ◇ Followed
 - ◇ WorshippedA power that:
 - ◇ Speaks pompous and blasphemous things
 - ◇ Makes war with the saints for 42 months
 - ◇ Has authority over all of earth's inhabitants

In our next issue, we will name this world power — a power that is now in existence and will soon manifest his corrupt authority over the people of earth and his hatred for the followers of Christ.

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!**

