

July 13, 2024

# *West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter*

## **"WONDERFUL SAVIOR!"**

Every episode in the story of Jesus as told by the Gospel writers is like a prism. The incredible array of colors in each episode portray fresh glimpses of who Jesus was among us – who He is today as our Savior.

One such episode is found in John 5. Jesus has been in Galilee, out of the critical view of the Jewish leaders, who ultimately will orchestrate his death. But there is a feast in Jerusalem – not just any feast, but Passover – the most celebrated of the feasts. It is AD 29. In just two years Jesus will be giving His life on the very day of Passover. But he returns to Jerusalem, a hostile environment for him, but one in which there are many who need to experience His personal touch.

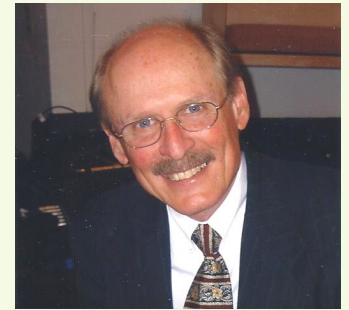
As Jesus enters Jerusalem by the "sheep gate," He finds a man who has been "disabled" (to use a term of today) for 38 years, sitting by a pool that promises healing. Jesus finds the man there alone, yet in a crowd; hopeless, for though he is near help, it is out of his reach; and responsive to the voice of Christ, who asks him if he "wants to be made well" (John 5:6).

In this story that only John recounts, the vivid "colors" of the heart of our Savior come to view. We see Him as One:

- ◇ Who knows at all times where we are and seeks us out
- ◇ Who comes to us in our desperation when all our efforts to fix what's wrong in our lives have failed
- ◇ Who hears the cry of our hearts and knows the loneliness of our souls
- ◇ Who risks the censure resulting from those who hate who He is but comes to us privately and quietly in our moments of need
- ◇ Who has a solution for our physical maladies and our sin
- ◇ Who asks us if we would like "to be made well," then invites us to "stand up and walk" – away from our past, away from our bondage, away from the shame of our condition and the censure of others

This is the Jesus of this story – this is the Jesus in whom I trust and to whom I give my allegiance – how about you, my reader?

In Him,  
Pastor Chilson

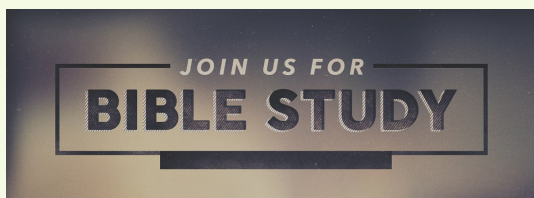


*Pastor Darrell Chilson*

***"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.***



## JESUS AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA

### John 5 — Part 1

**1** After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **2** Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep [Gate] a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. **3** In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. **4** For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

**5** Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. **6** When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been [in that condition] a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" **7** The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me in to the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

**8** Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." **9** And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

**10** The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." **11** He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" **12** Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" **13** But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in [that] place.

**14** Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." **15** The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.



- 1) Verse 1 — "After this" — after what? Where was Jesus? Where was the feast? And what was the feast?
- 2) Picture the crowd at the Pool of Bethesda. Why were they there? Was there actually an angel who stirred the waters, and was there actually healing in the water? Can you imagine the commotion when the "race" to the water took place?
- 3) Verse 5 — There was a "certain" man who had a thirty-eight year old problem. Describe the problem. What was the man's only solution? Was there any hope for him?
- 4) What was Jesus' question to this man? What was His command? When did the miracle take place?
- 5) Verse 10 — What problem did Jesus create for the man by healing him? What was the focus of the religious leaders when they saw this man was healed? Do you think Jesus intentionally performed this miracle on the Sabbath? Why do you think Jesus "withdrew?"
- 6) Why did Jesus seek the man out again? What did Jesus mean when He said, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you"?
- 7) Verse 15 — Why do you think the healed man went and told the Jews who had healed him when he found out who it was? How do you think that impacted Jesus' relationship with the Jewish leaders?
- 8) In this story, did Jesus depreciate the Sabbath? Is Sabbath observance important? How did Jesus' view of the Sabbath differ from that of the Jews? How did He restore meaning to the Sabbath in His time here on earth?

## "THE AXIS OF EVIL – THE BEAST" Part 2

If you were an undercover agent for the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration), trying to infiltrate a narcotics ring for the purpose of bringing the members of that drug ring to justice, would you show up wearing a police uniform and a badge or would you try to look and talk as much like the criminals as possible to disguise your true identity and catch them in their illegal activities? Having been around narcotics officers, I know that they practice what we might call "justifiable deception" to catch their "prey." To catch a drug dealer, an undercover law enforcement agent often looks like, talks like, and acts like a drug dealer, or user. The agent will take on the appearance of the subculture he is entering and will disguise his real identity to deceive the offender and make possible his arrest! "The good guys" use deceptive tactics to catch "the bad guys."

The devil uses these same tactics against prospective followers of Christ to catch them off guard and "deceive, if possible, the very elect" (Matthew 24:24) at the end of time:

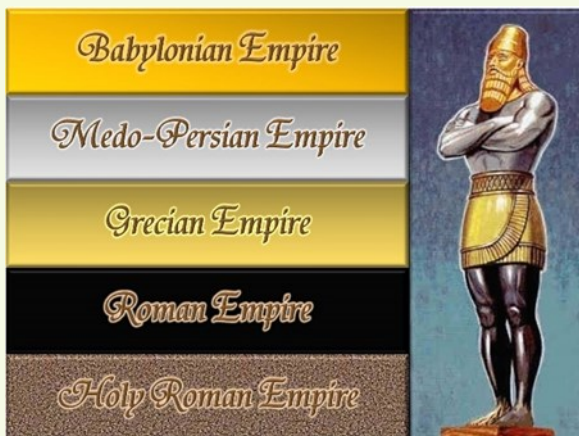
2 Corinthians 11:14 – **Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.**

Revelation 12:9 – So the great dragon, that serpent of old, called the Devil and **Satan, deceives the whole world.**

At the end of time – the period of time we are now entering – Satan will "deceive the whole world" by looking like, talking like, and acting like an "angel of light" – just as he did with Jesus Himself just before He began his 3 ½ years of ministry! The devil even quoted Scripture to persuade Christ to succumb to temptations that would bring an end to his mission before it even began (Matthew 4:6).

So let's look at the prophecies that speak of this Dragon and the Beast, his human surrogate. We begin with the prophecies of Daniel which provide an important backdrop for understanding the same prophecies found in the Book of Revelation – specifically those prophecies which help us identify the second member of the "Axis of Evil" – "**the beast.**"

Daniel gives us a view of the "War between Christ and Satan" (Revelation 12:9) from the time of Daniel (605 BC) until the coming of Jesus. Between Daniel's time and the return of Christ, there are five world empires that are used by Satan to "make war against [the followers of Christ]." They are Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Pagan Rome, and Papal Rome. After the reign of these kingdoms, the Kingdom of Christ will crush the kingdoms of this world and become the Kingdom which "stands forever" (Daniel 12:44).



Daniel 2:31-45 provides the first snapshot of this timeline from the time of Daniel to the coming of Christ. This image helps us visualize Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the historical fulfillment of that dream, as revealed to Daniel. (To see a video study on this very important dream, please click on the following link: <https://vimeo.com/888942005>).

The second snapshot that Daniel gives us fleshes out the imagery of the first one and is found in Daniel 7:1-28. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of Daniel 2 and Daniel's vision of Daniel 7 give us **the exact same** timeline from the days of Daniel to the coming



of Christ. **There are only two differences:** **1)** The **symbols** used by God to describe the five world empires which have opposed and persecuted the people of God throughout history, **and 2)** The critical and important **added details** in Chapter 7 revealing the nature of **the last evil empire** to “make war against the saints” – the Anti-christ. (Daniel 7:21, 22; Revelation 13:5-7). Compare the two prophecies:

- ◇ The “head of gold” (Dan 2:32); the “lion” (Dan 7:4) = Babylon
- ◇ The “chest of silver” (Dan 2:32); the “bear” (Dan 7:5) = Medo-Persia
- ◇ The “belly of bronze” (Dan 2:32); the “leopard” (Dan 7:6) = Greece
- ◇ The “legs of iron” (Dan 2:33); the “dreadful and terrible beast” (Dan) 7:7 = Rome (See comparison of the images of the two prophecies of Daniel):
- ◇ The “feet of iron and clay” (Dan 2:33); the “little horn” power (Dan 7:8) = the Antichrist of the end times that rules until the Kingdom of Christ is established (Daniel 7:14, 27) — not shown in this graphic.

(To watch video studies on the prophecy of Daniel 7, please click on the following links: <https://vimeo.com/894393089>; <https://vimeo.com/898442557>).



In the remainder of this study, we look specifically at the following verses as we discover the identity of “the beast” of Revelation, described by Daniel as the “little horn” power:

#### Daniel’s version: Daniel 7 –

**8** "I was considering the horns, and there was **another horn, a little one, coming up among them**, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, **in this horn, [were] eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words**. ... **11** "I watched then because of the sound of the **pompous words** which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame [compare with Revelation 19:20].

**17** 'Those great beasts, which are four, [are] four kings [which] arise out of the earth. **18** 'But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.' **19** "Then I wished to know the truth about **the fourth beast**, which was **different from all the others**, exceedingly dreadful, [with] its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, [which] devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; **20** "and **the ten horns that [were] on its head, and the other [horn] which came up**, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had **eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words**, whose appearance [was] greater than his fellows.

**21** "I was watching; and **the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them**, **22** "until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made [in favor] of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. **23** "Thus he said: '**The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all [other] kingdoms**, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces. **24** The **ten horns [are] ten kings [who] shall arise from this kingdom**. And **another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first [ones]**, And shall subdue three kings. **25** He shall speak [pompous] words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall [think] to change times and law. Then [the saints] shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time [3 ½ years – compare with Revelation 13:5].




## John's Version: Revelation 13 –


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**.

4 So **they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast**, saying, "Who [is] like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" 5 And **he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies**, and he was given authority to [make war] for forty-two months [3 ½ years].

6 Then he **opened his mouth in blasphemy against God**, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. 7 **It was granted to him to make war with the saints** and to overcome them. And **authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation**. 8 **All who dwell on the earth will worship him**, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

So as we look at these passages, one from Daniel and one from Revelation – two accounts of the **same story**, we find identifying characteristics of this last empire on earth, the empire of Antichrist, "**the beast**." Following are some of these characteristics:

- ♦ **Blasphemous** – a "pompous" character, claiming the prerogatives of God: the forgiveness of sin, the mediator between the sinner and the Savior, the creator of Christ in the Eucharist, and the dispenser of the grace of God that saves – all the epitome of blasphemy!
  - ♦ **Persecutes the Church**, making war against the saints, for 3 ½ years at the end of time, as it did for 1,260 years during the Middle Ages – this power has a track record!
  - ♦ **Born of the Roman Empire** – the "little horn" of Daniel 7 comes out of the head of the fourth beast of Daniel's vision
  - ♦ **A surrogate of the Dragon** – It was Rome who pursued Christ in Bethlehem ("the Dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth to her Child as soon as it was born" – Revelation 12:4); it was Rome that put Christ on the cross at the behest of the church; it was Rome that burned, crucified and threw to lions followers of Christ during the Reformation at the behest of the church; and it is again Rome, using the power of government, who persecutes the followers of Christ at the end of time.
  - ♦ **Thinks to change times and laws** – the "unholy editor" of the Law of God, changing the day of the week proscribed by the finger of God on stone on which we are to rest – the Sabbath of the fourth commandment – and removing the second commandment that prohibits the worship of idols
  - ♦ **Uproots three horns in his quest for dominance** – this the Church of Rome did in its ascendancy to power over Europe in the sixth century
  - ♦ **Has eyes (the appearance) of a man and a mouth speaking great blasphemy** — it is a human power
  - ♦ **Makes war against the saints and prevails until Jesus comes**
  - ♦ **Different from all the other beasts of Daniel 7 which depict the preceding empires of the world** – it is not like any other world empire — it is a religious power with authority over the entire world which demands the worship and allegiance of the world
  - ♦ **Represented as a woman** – a harlot (Revelation 17:1-6), bearing the nature of a corrupt church (Revelation 18:22, 23), in contrast to the woman of Revelation 12:1, the Church of Jesus
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**This beast** of prophecy, the second power of the Axis of Evil spoken of in Revelation 16:13, is none other than **the papacy, the Church of Rome** – a **religious power**, wearing the **deceptive cloak of Christianity** while having the nature of the Dragon – from whom it receives its “power, throne and great authority” (Revelation 13:2); **it is a religious power that uses the power of the state** to persecute those who refuse to comply with its authority. This power, the “**little horn**” of Daniel 7, or **the beast** of Revelation 13 – one and the same, arises from the fourth beast **Roman empire** of Daniel 7. It is further represented by the **iron** in the feet of the image of Daniel 2 – the same **iron** of the legs of the image of Daniel 2 which represents the Roman empire; and in Revelation 13:1 it has all the same characteristics of the seven-headed beast of Revelation 12:3 – the Dragon itself! **This papal empire claims the authority to change the Law of God, written on stone by the finger of God** (Exodus 31:18); it is the persecuting power of the Middle Ages that killed more than 50 million Christians refusing to bow to its authority, verily that of the Roman Catholic Church; and it is the final persecuting power of God’s people just before Jesus returns (Revelation 13:5-7).

Three points I wish to make in summary of all the above:

- 1) The identity of the beast of Revelation 13 (the “little horn” power of Daniel 7) is without question! Not only is Scripture clear, but some of the best commentators of the Bible clearly and without hesitation recognize and espouse the truth of Bible prophecy as expressed herein.
- 2) Some might say that the Church of Rome is Christian in nature – that the work of charity it promotes is proof that it is not the Antichrist. Don’t be fooled by outward appearances! What the Church of Rome has been in the past is what she is today. She hasn’t changed! She simply waits for her moment to come when her aspirations of controlling the world again, as she once did, are allowed by the political and religious controls that now keep her in check. She is responsible for the death of millions who have refused to recognize her authority. And when the time is right, she will rekindle the fires of hell against those who “worship Him **[and only Him]** who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.” (Revelation 14:7; Exodus 20:11).
- 3) While the papal system is all the Scriptures describe it to be – a false, blasphemous, corrupt and immoral form of religion that will be judged by God and destroyed in the lake of fire (Revelation 19 & 20), **there are many sincere Christians who profess to be Catholics**, deceived by the false teachings of the Catholic Church and who believe their salvation is dependent upon their faith in Christ **and the Church**. These followers of Christ WILL ultimately heed the call of God’s Spirit to “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues” (Revelation 18:4) and WILL join the ranks of the saved of the ages before Jesus returns. Yes! While the **system** is evil, **there are many adherents to the Catholic form of religion who are sincere followers of Christ and will soon abandon their loyalties to the Roman Church, embrace the authority of God’s Word ALONE, and make Christ their ONLY Savior!** One such person, who has been a Catholic and now has a powerful ministry to Catholics, is Mike Gendron. You can watch his testimony at: <https://vimeo.com/925241079>.

Finally, to conclude with the analogy with which we began, the Church of Rome is **Satan’s deceptive disguise** used to “**infiltrate**” the camp of God and “**deceive** the world” into believing that his lies are truth, to demand the worship due only to God, and then to attempt to destroy those who refuse to bow to his rule!

In our next issue, we will introduce the third and last power of the Axis of Evil – the **False Prophet** – a coalition of religious leaders who join forces with the **Beast** to bring the wrath of the **Dragon** upon the followers of Christ in the last lap of our journey on earth! Stay tuned!

