

July 20, 2024

West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

"FROM DEATH TO LIFE!"

I grew up in a home where conservative Christian beliefs affected every part of my family's life. My father was a pastor and my mother the daughter of a missionary to China. In fact, my whole family, cousins, grandparents, aunts and uncles, found much of their identity within the religious culture of the faith in which I had been raised.

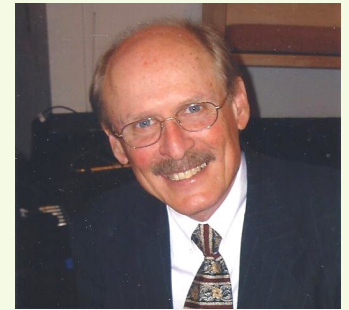
My early education was in parochial schools, where Bible Class was always a part of the curriculum and the memorization of Scripture required. When I became an adult, I never forgot what I had learned as a youth. The familiarity with the Bible and the verses I had memorized as a child are a gift my parents gave me that will forever be a blessing to my life and ministry!

Unfortunately, with this blessing also came some baggage that I had to cast aside as I continued to grow in my understanding of God's Word. Along with my instruction in the Bible came teachings that created for me a gross misunderstanding of the most important doctrine of Scripture – the Gospel of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone. I was not taught as a child, in spite of the religious environment in which I was raised, that Jesus had lived my life, died my death, and that as a result of His doing and dying on my behalf, I could face Him and my eternity in confidence, knowing that at Calvary HE carried my sin and my guilt — at Calvary, HE was judged for my sin and my guilt, and that because of what He had done, I would never have to face the judgment for my sin and my guilt. I had been taught that before Jesus returns, I would have to face an "investigative judgment" to determine if my life of faith in Christ had resulted in a perfect and sinless life and character that would pass the judgment. And, I was taught, if this sinless perfection had not been achieved, I would fall short of God's standard — I would have to stand before God in the final judgment "without a Mediator" — alone and lost!

So, you can understand why the following text, taken from our study passage for today, has meant so very much to me! Jesus said,

"Most surely I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me HAS everlasting life, and SHALL NOT come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. John 5:24.

In Him,
Pastor Chilson

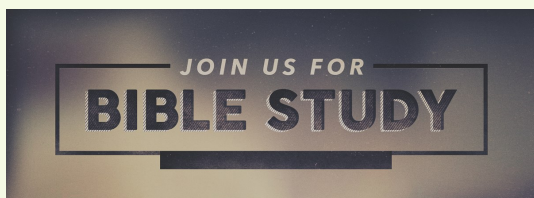


Pastor Darrell Chilson

***"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.***



John 5 – Part 2

Father and Son

16 For this reason the Jews **persecuted** Jesus, and sought to kill Him, **because** He had done these things on the **Sabbath**. **17** But Jesus answered them, "**My Father** has been working until now, **and I** have been working." **18** Therefore the Jews **sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.** **19** Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. **20** "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. **21** "For as the **Father raises the dead and gives life** to [them], **even so the Son gives life** to whom He will. **22** "For the **Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,** **23** "that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor **the Son** does not honor **the Father** who sent Him.

Life and Judgment

24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who hears My word and believes** in Him who sent Me **has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.** **25** "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when **the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.** **26** "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, **27** "and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. **28** "Do not marvel at this; for the **hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice** **29** "and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. **30** "I can of Myself do nothing. **As I hear, I judge;** and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of **the Father who sent Me.**



- 1) So why was Jesus "persecuted" by the Jews, and why did they seek to **kill** Him? How did Jesus' actions incur such a sentence?
- 2) What gave the Jews the feeling they could wield such authority over Jesus?
- 3) How do you see the discourse of Christ addressing the thoughts and intents of the Jews in verses 19-22?
- 4) Discuss how this story is repeated in the experience of Christ's followers — in the first century; during the Middle Ages; and at the end of time, just before Jesus returns.
- 5) You have to admit that Jesus makes some pretty incredible claims. What would your reaction have been in that story?
- 6) Is Jesus the Son of God or just a good Man — or a prophet? Is He what He claims to be? Are you sure? How has that reality affected your life?
- 7) What certainties do we find in the words of Jesus in verse 24? Is there going to be a judgment?
- 8) What do verses 25-29 teach us about death — and about resurrection — and about the return of Christ? See also 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.



“THE AXIS OF EVIL – FALSE PROPHET” Part 1

To refresh the memory of my readers, following is an important point of review: THERE ARE ONLY THREE CHARACTERS IN THE END TIME AXIS OF EVIL – ONLY THREE MAJOR POWERS ON THE WORLD STAGE WHO WILL OPPOSE CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH TO THE END, AND TO THE DEATH! The Bible is clear in identifying these powers of evil:

“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.” Revelation 16:13, 14.

These three characters join forces in the final battle between good and evil, and in the end, they are defeated by the “Rider on the White Horse” and “cast into the lake of fire.”

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.”


“And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. The beast was captured, and with him the false prophet.... These were cast alive into the lake of fire....” Revelation 19: 11, 19.

The War which began in heaven when the Dragon made war on the Kingdom of Christ (“Michael”), continues on earth today against the Church of Jesus Christ, and it will end dramatically with the destruction of all three of these evil powers:

“They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil [Dragon], who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire [with] the beast and the false prophet....” Revelation 20: 9, 10.

In previous “chapters” of our study of the Axis of Evil, we have identified the Dragon as the Devil and the Beast as the Papacy – the Church of Rome. In the next chapters we will identify the third member of this coalition of evil, the False Prophet.

We begin by noting the following important points:

- ◇ At the very center of the Book of Revelation is the **theme** and **central story** behind **all** that John tells us about the end of time. This theme is summarized in one verse: “There was War in heaven: Michael [Christ] and His angels fought against the Dragon; and the Dragon fought and his angels.” Revelation 12: 7.
 - ◇ This War which began in heaven resulted in the Dragon being cast to the earth with his angels, where he continued his fight against Christ in Bethlehem, at Calvary, and against the Church throughout the ages.
 - ◇ This War will only end when Christ and the armies of heaven descend upon the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet, and cast them into the lake of fire. (Revelation 19:20; 20:10).
 - ◇ Revelation 12 tells the story of the Dragon.
 - ◇ Revelation 13 tells the story of the Beast and the False Prophet.
- 



And since the False Prophet is the subject of our current study, it is important that we build our case as to his identity and his role very carefully, as there must be no doubt as to the truth of our conclusions.

Following is where John “introduces” us to the False Prophet:

“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.” Revelation 13: 11.

No mention of the “false prophet” in this verse? Correct! And this verse is John's “introduction” to the False Prophet??? Yes!

There are only three times in the Book of Revelation where the actual term “False Prophet” is used –

- 1) Revelation 16:13
- 2) Revelation 19:20
- 3) Revelation 20:10

Yet this character plays an incredibly important part in the coalition of evil which wars against the followers of Christ at the end of time, and it is critical that we look beneath the surface of the language of Revelation 13:11 to discover this “hidden” player and who the Bible identifies as the third member of the Axis of Evil. Let's take this verse apart:

- ◇ “Another beast”
- ◇ “Coming up out of the earth”
- ◇ “Two horns”
- ◇ “Like a lamb”
- ◇ “Like a dragon”

“ANOTHER BEAST” – “Another” points us back to a different beast that comes before. And what beast could that be? In Revelation 13:1 (the very first verse of this same chapter), John sees **“a beast rising up out of the sea.”**

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. Revelation 13:1.

And what is represented in prophecy by the term “beast?” In our previous study of this power, we learned that “beasts” spoken of in Bible prophecy represent world powers – empires, major players in the governments of the world that have great influence upon the world. We also learned that this beast of Revelation 13:1 represents the Papacy – the last of five world empires of prophecy that have sought to destroy faithful followers of Christ who believe:

- ◇ The Bible is the inspired Word of God and the **only** rule of faith and practice for the Christian – **not** the Word of God as interpreted by the Church of Rome
- ◇ Salvation is by grace **alone**, through faith **alone** in Jesus Christ **alone** – **not** as dispensed and mediated by the Church of Rome





“COMING UPON OUT OF THE EARTH” – In Daniel 7: 3, Daniel saw **“four beasts come up from the sea”** – a lion, a bear, a leopard, and a dreadful and terrible beast, each representing four world empires:

These great beasts, which are four, are four kingdoms [which] will arise from the earth. Daniel 7:17.

So the beast of Revelation 13:1, which also comes up out of the sea, is also a world empire – in this case Papal Rome, as per our previous study. It comes up out of “the sea,” – from the midst of the region of the Mediterranean – “The Great Sea”:

Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.” Daniel 7:2, 3.

All four beasts that Daniel sees in vision come from the region of the Mediterranean – “the center of the world” for centuries, and **from among the great populace of the earth**. This is important! John interprets the meaning of this identifying term, “the sea”:

“The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.” Revelation 17:15.

The **“Holy Roman Empire”** (Papacy) rose from among the nations of Europe, and was born of the **Pagan Roman Empire**, the fourth beast of Daniel’s vision. The “harlot” is one of the names the Scriptures use to describe the Papacy.

The beast of our theme text, Revelation 13: 11, is **“another** beast.” It too is a nation with world influence and great power. This beast, however, does not come up out of the **sea**, but “out of the **earth**” – **an important difference** as we seek to understand the identity of our third character. This “another beast” of our theme text is not born of the great community of nations that surround the Mediterranean – “the Great Sea.” The “beast” of this study is seen by John as “coming up out of **the earth**,” in contrast to the rise of the empires of the world spoken of previously by both Daniel and John. John says, “The **earth** helped the woman, and the **earth** opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the Dragon had spewed out of his mouth” – a reference in the story of the Dragon’s pursuit of “the woman” (the Church) in Revelation 12. “The **earth**” provided protection to the Church in this passage as the Dragon sought to destroy her, just as he had sought to destroy Christ Himself in Bethlehem (Revelation 12:4, 5). To further emphasize the meaning of **“the earth,”** John uses the term **“the wilderness”** in place of **“the earth”** to indicate the protection of the **unpopulated regions of the earth** for the Church as Satan and his agents sought to destroy the followers of Christ.

Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.... The woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. Revelation 12:6, 14.

Where did those who were pursued by Rome in the 1st century flee to? The region of Decapolis, east of Galilee, Pella, and the rocks and crags of **“the wilderness”** of Palestine. And where did the Christians of the Middle Ages flee during the war of the Papacy against those followers of Christ during a time when “heretics” were being put on crosses, thrown to lions, burned at the stake, and killed by the sword? They fled to the Piedmont Mountains and **the wilderness regions** of Europe, hiding from the agents of the Roman Church.





And where did the persecuted Pilgrims go to flee “religious persecution in England?” They fled to the “wilderness” of the “New World” where “the earth helped the woman” and a nation that valued religious freedom was born!

Many of the British North American colonies that eventually formed the United States of America were settled in the seventeenth century by men and women, who, in the face of European persecution, refused to compromise passionately held religious convictions and fled Europe. The New England colonies, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland were conceived and established “as plantations of religion.” Some settlers who arrived in these areas came for secular motives—“to catch fish” as one New Englander put it—but the great majority left Europe to worship God in the way they believed to be correct. They enthusiastically supported the efforts of their leaders to create “a city on a hill” or a “holy experiment,” whose success would prove that God’s plan for his churches could be successfully realized in the American wilderness. Even colonies like Virginia, which were planned as commercial ventures, were led by entrepreneurs who considered themselves “militant Protestants” and who worked diligently to promote the prosperity of the church. *Library of Congress – America as a Religious Refuge*.

“TWO HORNS” – The next notable characteristic of this new beast spoken of in our theme text is that it had “two horns.” What, in the symbolism of prophetic terminology, do “horns” represent? Again, we go to Daniel for the answer: “The ram which you saw, having the two horns – [they are] the King's of Media and Persia.” (Daniel 8: 20). In the vision of Daniel, he saw a ram with two horns which represented the world empire of Medo-Persia – a kingdom that had within it a political, yet cooperative, division of power. Earlier in the same chapter of Daniel, Daniel is shown a “he-goat with a notable horn between his eyes.” This goat represented the Kingdom of Greece, and Alexander the Great the single horn. (Daniel 8:21). But when Alexander died, his four generals divided up the Kingdom, and the Bible says of this event, “As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.” (Daniel 8: 22)

.So, what do the two horns on the beast of Revelation 13: 11 signify? **A nation that comes up out of the earth and has two cooperative political forms of government within the one nation. The two horns of this beast represent a cooperative division of power!** Some Bible students believe these two horns of power depict the two-party system of American government, some the two branches of Congress which are dominated in their decision-making by these two parties, and some the two separate entities of church and state in America. In truth, all three of these “sets of two” play a significant role in the prophecy of the two-horned beast of Revelation 13:11 and are congruent with the division of power found in, and unique to, the United States of America!

In our next segment:

- ◇ We will find that the timing of the rise of America on the world stage is consistent with the time prophecies of Revelation. As the persecuting power of Rome came to the peak of its power over the people of Europe and began its decline in the 17th Century, America was born.
- ◇ We will also discover in our next issue how the False Prophet is born from within the life and character of American religion and politics and becomes a power of evil just before Jesus returns.

Stay tuned!

