

July 27, 2024

West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

“JUDGED, CONDEMNED, ACQUITTED!”

According to the National Academy of Sciences, “4.1% of people currently on death row are likely to be innocent.” Whether you are a proponent of capital punishment or not, I can guarantee that if you were falsely charged with a capital crime, you would want to know that your defense attorney was the best, your witnesses truthful, your jury fair, and your judge capable and honest in matters of law and justice!

There is a Judgment Day approaching when the world will be judged, and those who fail to pass judgment will be “executed.” But because Jesus “became sin for us,” (2 Corinthians 5:21) and faced judgment on our behalf at Calvary (John 12:31), those who place their faith in Him and claim His merits will not have to face judgment (John 5:24). Christ had no “faithful witness” to testify at His trial, He had no honest judge to acquit Him — the Sinless One, He had no one, except John and three women who loved Him stand by Him, unashamed, when He died — not even His own disciples!

But for the sinner who “comes to Christ in faith,” Jesus is a “Faithful Witness,” a just Judge, a Savior who has shared our human experience, and our High Priest who intercedes on our behalf in the courts of heaven. Once we stood guilty before a just and broken Law. Now we stand acquitted, declared righteous, as by faith we rightfully claim as our own the merits of Christ. That’s the Gospel! Further, because of our new standing with God, **the Law which once condemned us now demands our salvation, as its demands are completely satisfied!**

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.” {Paul — 1 Timothy 1:15.}

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 Ministries is to help Christ’s followers recognize the signs of His approaching return and be prepared for that Great Day.



John 5 – Part 3

Fourfold Witness

31 "If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. **32** "There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. **33** "You have sent to **John**, and he has borne witness to the truth. **34** "Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. **35** "He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. **36** "But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish--**the very works that I do**--bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

37 "And **the Father Himself**, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. **38** "But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. **39** "You search **the Scriptures**, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. **40** "But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. **41** "I do not receive honor from men. **42** "But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. **43** "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. **44** "How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that [comes] from the only God? **45** "Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is [one] who accuses you--**Moses**, in whom you trust. **46** "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. **47** "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"



- 1) What prompted this entire discourse of Jesus? What issues precede this lengthy commentary by Jesus?
- 2) Is the statement of Verse 31 true? In whose eyes? Why would He say that? Compare Jesus' statement with Deut 19:15; Matt 18:16; 2 Cor 13:1; 1 Tim 5:19.
- 3) What is Jesus called in Revelation 1:5; 3:14?
- 4) How many witnesses will give testimony to the world at the end of time? Rev 11:3.
- 5) Who are the four witnesses Jesus calls upon to affirm His authority and mission?
- 6) What is the ultimate intent of this discourse as stated by Jesus in Verse 34? How does this concur with the expressed theme of Jesus' life and mission? Jn 3:15-17; 1 Tim 1:15, 16.
- 7) What prevents those whom Jesus came to save from being saved? See Verse 40.
- 8) Discuss the contrast between the word of man and the Word of God. How do we see that contrast in both the world and the Church today?
- 9) In Verses 45-47, Jesus "plays the trump card." What is that, and where do we see this confirmed in other verses? Jn 7:23; 8:5; 9:28 plus some 45 other verses in the New Testament!

“THE AXIS OF EVIL – FALSE PROPHET” Part 2

IN REVIEW

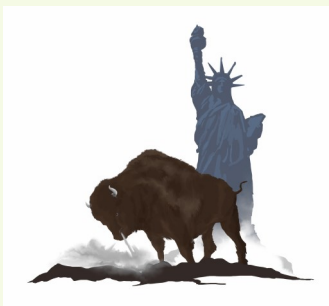
- ◇ Revelation 12 – The story of “the Dragon” – the marks of his identity, his origins, his war against Christ and His Church, and his final assault on the followers of Christ
- ◇ Revelation 13 – The stories of “the Beast” and “the False Prophet” – the marks of their identity, their origins, and their final assault on the followers of Christ

If any of this seem repetitious, it is intentional. It is absolutely necessary to lay a foundation of truth which will establish the credibility of our conclusions! These three powers make up an evil “Trinity” which will carry our world into the final Battle of Armageddon. These three powers experience final defeat by the armies of heaven and are cast into the “lake of fire.” **And these powers are currently coalescing on the world stage and will impact the lives of every human being living just before Jesus returns.** The followers of Christ MUST recognize them and be prepared to withstand their deception and their hatred for Christ and His true Church – not a denomination, but rather an invisible church composed of people who are trusting wholly upon the merits of Christ for their salvation and relying upon the Word of God alone as their source of authority.

In our last issue, we identified the “Two-Horned Beast” of Revelation 13:11 as America:

“Then I saw another beast [America] coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.”

This verse is the first of eight which speak of this character – its **identity** and its **role** in the final scenes of human history. Following are five identifying marks of this power given in the verse above:



- 1) “Another beast” – a second world political power in play in Revelation 13
- 2) “Coming up out of the earth” – its origins are from a location different that all world powers/empires of the past – “earth”/“wilderness” in contrast to the “sea”/“waters” of previous empires.
- 3) “Two horns” – a division of cooperative powers within a kingdom
- 4) “Like a lamb” – and not just any lamb, but a specific Lamb!
- 5) “Like a dragon” – and not just any dragon, but a specific Dragon!

We discussed the first three of these identifying marks of the two-horned beast in our last issue. In this issue, we will look at the last two – “like a lamb” and “like a dragon.”

“LIKE A LAMB” – The word “lamb” is used 33 times in the New Testament, 29 of these times in the Book of Revelation alone. And in every case it is used, it is in **direct reference to Christ**, except for the one time it is used in Revelation 13:11. There it is used to say that the two-horned beast is “like a lamb.” “Like” is not “the same as,” but in the larger context of the entire New Testament, and the specific context of the prophecies of Revelation, this “likeness” to a lamb can be nothing less than a “likeness” to “**the Lamb of God**” and the Christian faith that emerges from His story – the Gospel!

The "lamb" in Revelation 13:11 is **Christian** America. Our nation was established upon the principles of the Bible and the Christian faith. The people who settled our original colonies and eventually established the government of our nation came to the "wilderness"/"earth" of this continent to find freedom from the oppression and persecution of the Church of Rome, at a time when the Reformation was at its peak and the Church of Jesus Christ under the most intense persecution by the Papacy. The people who came to America were Christians who were throwing off the oppressive control of the Church of Rome and looking for a place where they could worship God according to the dictates of their conscience.



Of course, some who came to America did so for other reasons, but 12 of the 13 colonies were Protestant, the charters of the colonies bore the language of their faith, and ultimately our national monuments and governing documents contained in them the language of the Bible and of the Christian faith. Etched in the monuments of our founders are inscriptions from the Bible and statements that come from our Christian heritage. Embedded in the founding documents of both our national and state constitutions, and even in the charters of the original colonies, are phrases of Scripture and verbal expressions of faith in God, brought to America by the survivors of the Protestant Reformation. The very fabric of our nation from its beginning is laced with the treads of a faith in God and "the Lamb."

Examples:

- ◇ **Declaration of Independence**: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."
- ◇ **Pledge of Allegiance**: "...one nation under God..."
- ◇ **Tallahassee Democrat, October 13, 2015**: "All 250 founding fathers were Christians but 12. Of 56 signers of our Declaration of Independence, 37 had the 18th century equivalent of seminary degrees. When the Constitutional Convention was at an impasse, Benjamin Franklin proposed they pray! He said, "We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it." Patrick Henry said, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists but by Christians, not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ." George Washington dedicated the United States to God. He said the nation would prosper and be protected as long as it remained committed to the will and purposes of God. America's Christian heritage is indisputable.

When John saw in vision a nation "rising out of the earth" that looked "like a lamb," he saw behind all that our nation was founded upon the watermark of "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." ABSOLUTELY NO OTHER NATION IN THE WORLD CAN CLAIM THIS HERITAGE!

America **is** the "lamb-like" beast of Revelation 13, and the "lamb" represents the prophetic Church of the Christian faith which has been a voice for Christ in the world since the inception of our American culture.



Even to this day, the Christian faith is espoused and upheld by the conservative leadership of our nation. It is a prominent part of the policy and principles upon which our conservative leaders govern and publicly defend our nation.

“LIKE A DRAGON” – So, if “like a lamb” can be rightfully paraphrased “with a likeness to THE LAMB,” “like a dragon” can also rightfully be paraphrased “with a likeness to THE DRAGON” – the archenemy of Christ and His Church. Peter says,

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8.

It is no coincidence that we find a **lamb** and a **dragon** referenced in the description of this two-horned beast, for John places America center-stage in his prophecies of the end of time as the final conflict between Christ and Satan rages! After all, who are the two adversaries in the war which began in heaven?

“And there was war in heaven: Michael [Christ] and his angels fought against the dragon [Satan]; and the dragon fought and his angels.” Revelation 12:7.

And who are the two contestants spoken of by Jesus in the final drama of the ages in Matthew 16:18?

“And I also say to you, ...on this rock [Jesus – the Lamb] I will build My church, and the gates of hell [Satan – the Dragon] shall not prevail against it.”

The archenemy of Christ is described in Revelation 12 and 13 as “the **Dragon**.” The term “dragon” occurs **eleven** times in these two chapters. “The **Beast**,” the human agency of the Dragon, is mentioned in Revelation 13 **fifteen** times. The only other member of the “trinity of evil” **not mentioned by name** is the **False**



Prophet. However, all three of these powers of evil are completely embedded in this passage. Therefore, we must discover how **the False Prophet emerges from this beast representing America, for he does so in the form of a lamb.**

John saw in vision **our** nation with its Christian identity **like no other nation!** However, as we see in the remaining verses of Revelation 13, our nation will also “speak like a dragon as it promotes Satan’s human surrogate power, the Beast; mandates worship of the Beast; makes an image to the Beast; and decrees the death of all who refuse to render allegiance and comply with its demonic demands to worship the Beast and his **image** – verily a “**likeness** of the Beast!” Revelation 13:11-18. In the fulfillment of this prophecy, **Christian** America will join the “Dragon” and the first “Beast” against the people of God and will fulfill its final destiny as the “False Prophet” of the Axis of Evil! This will be our study in our next issue!

Stay tuned!

