



August 3, 2024

West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

“RUN TO WIN!”

At this very moment, the greatest athletes in the world are convened in Paris, France at the 2024 World Olympics, each one competing for the greatest token of excellence, the “gold medal.” The skills and talents of the best from nearly 50 countries are on display for the world to see. For years, each contestant has been training for this moment, and some will leave the arena with the reward for which they have sacrificed time, certain pleasures of life, and imposed upon themselves to the greatest discipline.

As Christians, we too are in a contest — not for an earthly token of achievement, but for a crown to be bestowed upon all by our Savior who “endure to the end.” Paul said,

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may [win]! And everyone who competes [for the prize] is temperate in all things. Now they [do it] to obtain a perishable crown, but we [for] an imperishable [crown]. 1 Cor 9:24-25.

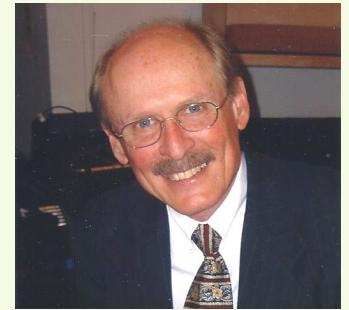
Jesus said,

“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” Rev 2:10.

Right now you may feel like an observer, watching the contest between good and evil and being helpless to change the course of events around you. But as Christians, we are participants in the training that will enable us to survive the ultimate contest just before us. Today we need to be checking our armor for battle (Ephesians 6), affirming our unwavering loyalty to our “Commander in Chief” — Jesus Christ, learning to trust the Word of God as our only source of truth and authority for life, and trusting in the faithfulness of God when all we have to cling to is the promise of His faithfulness to us.

The story of our study today is a story of God’s provision when there is no human solution to our need, and of His protection in our utter darkness.

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 6 – Part 1

FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

1 After these things Jesus went [to the other side] of the Sea of Galilee, which is [the Sea] of Tiberias. **2** Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. **3** And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. **4** Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. **5** Then Jesus lifted up [His] eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" **6** But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. **7** Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." **8** One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, **9** "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" **10** Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. **11** And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed [them] to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. **12** So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." **13** Therefore they gathered [them] up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. **14** Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

JESUS WALKS ON THE SEA

15 Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. **16** Now

when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, **17** got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them. **18** Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing. **19** So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. **20** But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." **21** Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.



- 1) When and where does this story take place? (See verses 1&4).
- 2) Why were so many following so far from home? Had they thought about food?!
- 3) What was the problem posed by Jesus? What were the two human solutions offered? What was Jesus' solution and when did He have a plan?
- 4) Were the human solutions adequate to solve the problem? How did Jesus go far and beyond anything His disciples could imagine?
- 5) Who was "the Prophet" they realized Jesus was from the miracle He had done?
- 6) How did the multitude react to the overwhelming evidence of Jesus' divine power? Does this remind you of another time when the people wanted to make Jesus King?
- 7) What was Jesus' reaction to the crowd? What was the reaction of the disciples? And what time of day was it when the disciples headed toward Capernaum?
- 8) What can we learn from the story of the journey from Bethsaida to Capernaum? Are there any similarities to the dilemmas of our lives and what a difference it makes for Jesus to be in our boat — in our lives?

“THE AXIS OF EVIL – FALSE PROPHET” Part 3

In Revelation 12, the history of the journey of the Church (“the woman”) throughout the ages is recounted and is separated into three different eras:

- 1) **The Church of the First Century: Revelation 12:1-6**
- 2) **The Church of the Middle Ages: Revelation 12:13-16**
- 3) **The Church of the Last Days: Revelation 12:17**

The First Century Church

From the time of Christ’s resurrection and return to heaven, the followers of Christ did what Jesus had instructed them to do, “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15. In the First Century, the Church bore a powerful witness of the Savior’s story to the whole world! As a result, It grew rapidly “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the world.” Acts 1:8. The Gospel was taken to the Gentiles, and Paul indicates that “the whole world” (Romans 1:8; Colossians 1:5, 6) had heard of the Christian faith by the middle of the 1st Century AD.



And with the proclamation of the Gospel came intense persecution – from the Jews and from the Romans. The followers of Christ were “scattered everywhere” (Acts 1), pursued by Satan and his agents, as he sought to destroy “the Christ” he had failed to destroy in Bethlehem and at Calvary, now in the person of “His bride” – the Church – “the woman.”

Historically, Satan has used human agencies and powers to carry out his deeds of deception and destruction. He used the Jewish leaders to **condemn** Christ to death. He then used the Roman armies to **execute** Christ on the cross. And he used pagan Rome throughout the first few centuries to pursue the Church.

John tells of the experience of the Church of the 1st Century in the following verses:

Revelation 12:1-6 – 1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. 2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. 3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a third of the [angels] 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. 5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. 6 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.

By the time of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, all the Apostles, except for John, were likely dead – martyrs of Christ. Those Christians who remained in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas at the time of Jerusalem’s destruction had fled to “the wilderness” areas (Revelation 12:6 above) where they were spared the onslaught of the Roman armies.

Jesus prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem before His death. Israel was a nation under judgment by God for the rejection of His Son. On the Sunday before His death, as He rode into Jerusalem on a colt, and as the crowds hailed Him King, Luke says, Jesus “saw the city and wept over it, saying:

"If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things [that make] for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation." Luke 19:41-44.

Two days later as Jesus and His disciples were leaving Jerusalem, Jesus warned His disciples of the coming assault on Jerusalem and told them what the sign would be for them to “flee to the mountains” [“the wilderness” of Revelation 12:6] that their lives might be spared. He said to them:

"When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. "Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled." Luke 21:20-22.

The fulfillment of this prophecy came in the Fall of 67 AD when Rome sent armies to Jerusalem to confront Jewish resistance to Roman rule and authority. The armies were led by Cestius Gallus, and with him was his 12th Legion. Cestius entered Jerusalem and besieged the Temple Mount, but a few days later retreated. The Jews, thinking that they had routed the Romans, pursued and attack the Roman legions and claimed victory over Cestius. Not only did this perceived defeat of Cestius result in his removal as commander of the Roman army and the appointment of Vespasian in his place, it also emboldened the Jewish rebels. In the spring of 70 AD when Titus returned with three legions of Rome, Jerusalem was destroyed, the temple razed, and a million Jews killed. The prophecy of Jesus was thus fulfilled,

"For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation." Luke 19:43-44.



When the followers of Christ saw the armies of Rome surround Jerusalem in the fall of 67 AD, they fled the city, moved to some of the “wilderness” areas of Palestine and Decapolis, and were spared the onslaught of Rome against Jerusalem in 70 AD – 1260 days later! Thus, the account of Revelation 12:6 was fulfilled!

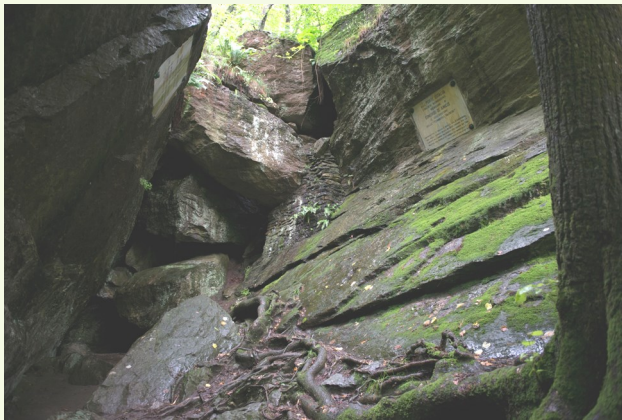
Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.



The Church of the Middle Ages

Revelation 12:13-16 – 13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male [Child]. 14 But 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. 15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. 16 But 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.

With great interest we should now see this second phase of the Dragon's attack on Christ and His Church. Again, "the woman," the Church of Jesus Christ, is the target of attack, and as the Church is pursued, she



flees to the "wilderness" where she is protected and sustained for "a time and times and half a time [1260 days], from the presence of the serpent the dragon."

This phase of Satan's attack on Christ, in the person of His Church, is the story of the onslaught of Rome, now Papal Rome, as opposed to Pagan Rome in the 1st Century. It is the story of centuries of persecution against the true followers of Christ by the Church of Rome as it attempted to stamp out those who dared question its authority and power!

Waldensian Rock Church of the Piedmont Mts

The span of time in which the Woman flees from this surrogate power of the Dragon is indicated in prophecy, and fulfilled in history, as "a time and times and half a time." Revelation 12:14. This span of time is the same as that of both the First and the Final phases of the Dragon's pursuit of the followers of Christ – AND the same span of time during which Satan stalked Christ and sought his life during His ministry on earth – *THREE-AND-A-HALF-YEARS! We will see this prophecy repeated in the prophecies of Satan's final attempt to destroy the Church in Revelation 12:17; 13:5; 11:3!

The rise of the **Beast** to power as seen by John in Revelation 13:1 took place over a period of centuries. In the 1st century, the Christian Church was established and the New Testament was written by the apostles – in the midst of persecution. In fact, all the disciples, except for John, were martyred, and even John would have lost his life for "the Word of God and for [his] testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 1:9), had it not been that God's mission for him was to give us his Gospel, his three Epistles, and this incredible Book of Prophecy!

John indicates in his epistles that by the end of the 1st Century the seeds of the doctrines of Antichrist were already planted within the Church, and it was only about 200 years later that the Roman emperor Constantine and the Church of Rome began collaborating to become what would later be a corrupt church backed by the ruthless Roman empire. In 380 AD, Christianity became the "official religion" of the Roman Empire. From the latter part of the 4th Century to the middle of the 6th Century, the Church of Rome



gained strength and achieved great power over the nations of Europe. At the same time, the Roman empire was in decline, and in 476 AD, the Western Roman Empire fell to the hands of the Germanic barbarian King Odoacer. The Eastern Roman Empire continued to exist, but it too began to decline in power and in its weakness sought strength and an alliance with the Church of Rome.

In 533 AD, Emperor Justinian gave civil authority to the Church of Rome, making the Pope “head of all bishops, and the true and effective **corrector of heretics**.” In 538 AD, the last of all factions within the empire opposing the supremacy of the Church of Rome were overcome and the church began its 1260-year reign over the nations of the earth. It is during this “reign of terror” that more than 50 million martyrs died at the behest of the Roman Church. (Halley’s Bible Handbook, page 726, 1965 edition).



But in 1798, General Berthier, Napoleon's Minister of War, marched on Rome, demanded that the Pope renounce his temporal power, and, upon the Pope's refusal to do so, took him captive. In 1799, the Pope died in captivity, ending the 1260-year reign of the Papacy. It is in this event, the imprisonment of the Pope, that the prophecy of Revelation 13:3, 10, 12 is fulfilled. This is “the deadly wound” inflicted upon the Beast. This wound would later be “healed” (Revelation 13:12) when Mussolini would sign the Lateran Treaty (1929), restoring civil power to the Papacy, recognizing Papal sovereignty over Vatican City and making it a State – officially a world power once again.

During the 1260-year reign of the Church of Rome, the “woman” fled Rome’s horrific persecution. The followers of Christ were forced to flee into the “wilderness” where they found refuge. 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.” The stories of the Waldenses, the Huguenots, the Hussites and numerous other Christian groups who suffered persecution during the “reign of the Church of Rome” confirm the prophecy of this chapter of history. – And the Puritans! And the Protestants who fled to America!

It was during this time that America was born. It was to the “earth”/“wilderness” of our land that the followers of Christ fled the persecution of Rome, finding safety and sustenance. This nation, the “two-horned beast” of Revelation 13, is a nation of prophecy. It is a nation that has championed the principles and faith of the Bible – of Christianity, from its beginnings.**

The Church of the Last Days

Revelation 12:17 – And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.



This text introduces to us the end-time pursuit of the Dragon as he seeks once again to exterminate the followers of Christ, just before Jesus returns. This era of the “rage” of the Dragon against Christ and his Church is described by Jesus as the “great tribulation.” In Revelation 13:5, 7, the SAME 1260-day period of time is noted as the length of time the beast will “make war with the saints to overcome them.” “Forty-two months” is the language of this text, the very same time period mentioned in previous eras of the Dragon’s assault on the Church – a **literal** 3 ½ years! Daniel also records this same time prophecy, and “the Great Tribulation” described in Revelation 13 and by Jesus in Matthew 24:

At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands [watch] over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, [even] to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book....Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who [was] above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that [it shall be] for a time, times, and half [a time]; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these [things] shall be finished. Daniel 12:1, 7.

Therefore, when you see the 'abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, ... then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. Matthew 24:15, 21-22.

In the next few issues, we will trace the emergence of the False Prophet within America as it leads our nation in calling the world:

- 1) To make an image to the beast,
- 2) To worship the beast and his image, and
- 3) To call upon our government to decree that all who refuse to worship the beast will be unable to buy and sell, and ultimately be killed

How can this possibly be?! Stay tuned!

FOOTNOTES:

* This span of time is 3 ½ years of prophetic time rather than literal time, one of the few occasions in Scripture where each “time” (or year – Daniel 4:16) is 360 days, based on the “year-for-a-day principle.” Other examples of this principle are found in Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6; Daniel 9:24. Context must determine our interpretation when a text can be interpreted in two different ways. For further study and understanding, view: <https://vimeo.com/933485608>.

** For further study and support of the premise that America is the “two-horned beast” of this prophecy (Revelation 13:11), and this nation’s “likeness to a lamb,” Christian America, view: <https://vimeo.com/991091840>.

