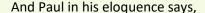


"Resurrection!"

Death is a horrible thing! When the hands of death claim those we love, the loss can be excruciating. I know because Sammy and I lost our son in death one week ago, and the loss has been devastating to us. Only the hope of seeing him again in the resurrection makes our sorrow bearable. We cling to the promises of the return of Jesus and a sweet reunion with Raymond again. And as a man of faith, we are assured we will see him again soon. Jesus said,

"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. 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." John 5:24, 25.



"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where [is] your sting? O grave, where [is] your victory?" 1 Corinthians 15:50-55.

There is a great Day coming, and we can almost see it on the horizon! No more death, no more pain, no more tears! (Revelation 21:4). I can't wait for that Day! And I plan to be among those who rejoice at the sight of our Savior coming in the clouds of heaven, saying with the hosts of the saved,

"Lo, this [is] our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us." Isaiah 25:9.

In Him, Pastor Chilson



Pastor Darrell Chilson

"We are living in the season of Christ's return."

Jesus said, "<u>Watch</u> and <u>be ready</u>, 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 4

"Many Disciples Turn Away"

60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard [this], said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?" 61 When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you? 62 "[What] then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? 63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and [they] are life. 64 "But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. 65 And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father." 66 From that [time] many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 "Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 70 Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" 71 He spoke of Judas Iscariot, [the son] of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What had Jesus said that was "hard" for His disciples to "understand"? See John 6:53.
- 2) How did Jesus attempt to bring understanding to His disciples? See verse 63.
- 3) What was the real point Jesus was trying to make? And why would He ask the question about His ascension in this context? Was Jesus testing their faith in Him? Why would He make reference to Judas?
- 4) What does verse 64 say about predestination vs foreknowledge? Was Judas' choice to betray Christ predetermined by God, or what his betrayal his choice and simply known beforehand by God?
- 5) Why did "many of His disciples walk with Him no more"? Did Jesus chase after them? What does Jesus' words and actions say about who He is in our lives and how He gives us the choice to follow Him? What are His words to us?
- 6) What question did Jesus then ask His disciples, in light of the fact that others were walking away from Him?
- 7) What is it that causes you to follow Him? And when it's not popular or politically correct, how will you deal with that?
- 8) Discuss the disciples' response to Jesus' question about whether or not they also wanted to leave Him. This is a rich mine for contemplative application to our own faith in Christ.
- 9) Wasn't Jesus' comment about Judas a little strong? Was it justified? Is this kind of language appropriate when identifying Satan's agents at the end of time? What about "the Beast" and "the False Prophet"? Where is the line between stating the truth about evil and being careful how we say things about human agents of Satan?

"AXIS OF EVIL - FALSE PROPHET" Part 6

In previous chapters of this continuing study, "The Axis of Evil – False Prophet", we have gone to great lengths in identifying:

The two-horned beast of Revelation 13:11 as America – yes, the United States of America

The "likeness" of this two-horned beast to "the Lamb" as the Christian America of the past, now
emerging at the end of time as the "moral majority" (to use a term of the recent past), descriptive
of a new evangelical conglomerate of Christianity – the compromised conservative Christian America of today, embodied in the conservative political wing of American politics

However, the Bible not only likens America to a **lamb**, but also to a **dragon**:

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

So in this chapter, we will seek to uncover the likeness of America to "the Dragon", the second "horn", if you please, of the two-horned beast.

First – This is **NOT** a politically motivated segment in this series of studies! God's people can be found in every religious and political group in our nation today. However, the Bible clearly describes the forces and the characters on stage in the final contest between good and evil, and <u>we must not ever water down the</u> clarity of Scripture in the interest of political correctness!

Once we identify the two-horned beast referenced above, we must realize that what follows in the remainder of this prophecy of Revelation 13:12-18 applies to the America we have known and loved, and we must be very honest about the role our nation plays in the last lap of time before Jesus returns. I pray God will enable my readers to see with open eyes and unbiased heart the truth of that which follows in this brief study. As I put aside my political biases in this chapter, I ask that you put aside your political biases as you continue to read. Nothing coud be more important for God's people to see today than what I now present in the paragraphs and chapters which follow, for "the time is at hand." Revelation 1:3.

Never before, since the American Civil War, has our nation been more divided than it is today! And just as in 1861, there are two competing factions within the United States – one ideology promoted by Democrats and a completely different ideology by the Republicans. The fervor of both sides is akin to the fervor of the mid-1800's which resulted in a civil war! It was a war then between Democrats and Republicans, just as it is now! The Democrats of the South said then that the issue of contention was states' rights, but the truth is they were fighting for an economy that depended on slavery to continue to exist. President Abraham Lincoln was a Republican and made the freeing of slaves an issue of the war that ultimately resulted in his assassination at the hands of a radical Confederate Democrat, John Wilkes Booth. "Lincoln's assassination was part of a larger political conspiracy intended by Booth to revive the Confederate cause by eliminating the three most important officials of the federal government." (References included in Wikipedia).

What would it take to convince you that evil was good – that wrong was right – that demonic was Christian? That is a question you're going to have to ask yourself on the day that the most spectacular visual proof of the power of God is in fact a display of demonic power. That's correct! Revelation 13:11-14 says:

Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he...causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast...He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do....

The world is now being prepared for the final and great deception of a nation that will "deceive those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do." Even now, masses are being deceived into thinking that the murder of the innocent unborn is justified in the name of the "reproductive rights of women!" Even now, masses are being deceived into thinking that a secure border and economic strength are what America has been experiencing for the last 4 years, and that "socialism for one man is neighborliness to another" – that patriotism, freedom and democracy is what the party of the left represents. These are lies, deception and outright evil – attributes of the Devil himself! And the masses are cheering their way to destruction! The manufactured enthusiasm of those seeking power and the voices of past presidents in their support, are sweeping crowds off their feet and taking us toward an apocalyptic hell! The Bible says the whole world will buy into this demonic deception and will believe the lies of the Devil and his agents because of the signs they perform in the sight of all, even bringing down fire from heaven – a reference to the story of Elijah as he called Israel back from idolatry to the worship of the God of heaven.

What is it going to take to open the eyes of God's people to see the difference between evil and good?

Attributes of the Dragon

Since Eden, Satan has been a <u>deceiver</u> and <u>pretender</u> – "Has God really said...?" "You will not surely die." "God knows that when you eat this fruit, your eyes will be opened...."

Jesus said, "The devil...was a <u>murderer</u> from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.... He is a <u>liar</u> and the father of it." John 8:44.

John says of the Devil, "The great dragon, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, <u>deceives the whole world</u>." Revelation 12:9.

Paul says of the Dragon and his agents, "Such [are] <u>false</u> apostles, <u>deceitful</u> workers, <u>transforming them-selves into apostles of Christ</u>. And no wonder! For <u>Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light</u>." 2 Corinthians 11:13-14.

Do not be deceived by phony enthusiasm, false promises, and the approval of the masses in the political arena. Look for the lies, the deception, clothed in hopeful tomorrows and persuasive rhetoric. Look at the character and past performance of politicians who promise bright tomorrows. Who they have been in the past is who they will be in the future! There are so many lies being told that are covered in glitter! Satan is active, and he has something for everyone – false Christianity and demonic philosophy.

And in the end, he will demonstrate through the leaders of our nation great signs to convince the world that his power is great and his cause against God's people is **good!** As the Beast (the papacy) has throughout the ages done the work of Satan in the clothing of righteousness — as the Beast has, in the name of Christianity and the good of the people slain millions for their refusal to submit to the power and authority of Rome, so the False Prophet, a blend of false Christianity and atheistic, anti-Christian socialism promote the authority of the Beast, demonstrate the miraculous power of the Dragon, and together pursue the Church in a final attempt to stamp out the followers of Christ and create an empire of evil. This will be Satan's last assault on Christ — an assault on the Church of Jesus Christ!

"For <u>false</u> christs and <u>false</u> prophets will rise and show <u>great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect." Matthew 24:24.</u>

"The coming of the [lawless one] is according to the working of Satan, with all <u>power</u>, <u>signs</u>, and <u>lying wonders</u>, and with all <u>unrighteous deception</u> among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10.

"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns <u>like a lamb</u> and spoke <u>like a dragon</u>. ... He performs <u>great signs</u>, so that he even <u>makes fire come down from heaven</u> on the earth in the sight of men. And he <u>deceives</u> those who dwell on the earth <u>by those signs</u> which he was granted to do. He was granted [power] to cause as many as would not <u>worship</u> the image of the beast to be <u>killed</u>." Revelation 13:11-15.

And so, the False Prophet is unmasked! America is quickly becoming the two-party power that will lead the world to worship at the feet of Rome and decree that those who refuse to do so will first be unable to buy or sell, then ultimately decree the death of those who remain faithful to the Lamb and coming King!

In our next study, we will begin to address some of the specifics of what the mark of the beast is, who receives it, and how we, as followers of Christ, can avoid receiving it. "Worship" will be a key component of that which will separate the "righteous" from the "wicked".

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. ... And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ... He was granted [power] to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. Revelation 13:8, 12, 15.

"Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." Revelation 14:7.

Stay tuned!