

August 31, 2024

## *West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter*

### **“His Experience — My Experience With Him!”**

The story of Jesus in the study of the next couple of weeks (John 7) is the story of the followers of Christ at the end of time – a story of controversy, rejection, boldness, pursuit, and avoidance. The Gospel is based on one simple premise – When a sinner embraces the grace of God by faith in His Son, he/she enters into a **solidarity with Christ** which causes the believer to share in His unending life (eternal life), His inheritance, a new life that resembles His life, AND the suffering and rejection He experienced at the hands of evil people. Paul promises all this as the believer embraces God’s grace through faith and a resulting **solidarity with Him**:

**(From selected writings of Paul) – “We died with Him, were buried with Him, were raised with Him, will be glorified with Him, are heirs with Him, will reign with Him, are a new creation in Him, resulting in a new life with Him, which brings the same rejection and suffering He experienced – something that will be particularly true at the end of time as the Dragon pursues the Church to the death!”**

The Gospel is the story of Christ becoming a part of the human family that He might live for us/as us the perfect life required of us, die the eternal death for us/as us that is required of us because of our sin, take our sin upon Himself that He might impute to us His perfect righteousness, come forth from death victoriously as the “first fruits” of a resurrection we will share with Him – all in exchange for our claim upon it all through faith!

In the study of the prophecies of Revelation, let us never lose sight of the incredible certainty of our solidarity with Christ in life, suffering, and in death from which resurrection and eternal life is born! And let us never forget the awesome privilege of being His presence on earth until the day He returns – His hands, His voice, His representatives to a world that needs to see Jesus in us and come to faith in Him!

In Him,  
Pastor Chilson

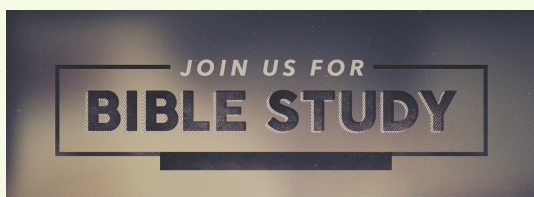


*Pastor Darrell Chilson*

***“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 7 – Part 1

### “Jesus’ Brothers Disbelieve”

1 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him. 2 Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. 3 His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. 4 "For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." 5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him. 6 Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. 7 "The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. 8 "You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come." 9 When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.

### “The Heavenly Scholar”

10 But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret. 11 Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, "Where is He?" 12 And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, "He is good"; others said, "No, on the contrary, He deceives the people." 13 However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews. 14 Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. 15 And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this Man know letters, having never studied?" 16 Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. 17 "If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or [whether] I speak on My own [authority]. 18 "He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. 19 "Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you

seek to kill Me?" 20 The people answered and said, "You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?" 21 Jesus answered and said to them, "I did one work, and you all marvel. 22 "Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. 23 "If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath?



- 1) Why was Jesus avoiding going to Jerusalem? Verse 1.
- 2) When did this Feast of Tabernacles take place?
- 3) Were Jesus’ brothers disingenuous when they encouraged Jesus to go to the feast? What reason did they give for Jesus to go? Verses 3 & 4.
- 4) What reason did Jesus give for not going, and then why did Jesus go after all, after His family left for the feast? Verses 6-9.
- 5) How would you describe Jesus’ thinking about going in secret to the feast, then later openly teaching in the temple? Verses 10 & 14.
- 6) Why was there so much controversy about Jesus among the people and the leaders of Israel? Verses 11-13.
- 7) What was Christ’s stated authority for teaching the things He did? And how was that a contrast to the acceptable and traditional standards of credibility of the people? Verses 16-18.
- 8) What “trump card” did Jesus play on the people in response to their reasoning about Him? And how would you evaluate the reasoning of Jesus to their refusal to believe in Him, as they claimed to believe in Moses? Verse 19-23.
- 9) How could we apply Jesus’ words to our own basis of belief? How consistent are we on points of faith and sources of authority, compared to the Jews of Jesus’ day?




## **“THE MARK OF THE BEAST” Part 1**

In Revelation 12, the central theme of the Book of Revelation is disclosed – the War of the Dragon (the Devil) against Michael (Jesus Christ) – a war that began in heaven prior to the creation of the world and continued on earth from Eden to Bethlehem to Calvary, and then against the Church of Jesus Christ until Christ returns with the armies of heaven to rescue His Church:


**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. ... He [was] clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ... And He has on [His] robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Revelation 19:11-16.**

In the last several chapters of our study of “The End-Time Axis of Evil”, we have gone to great lengths to demonstrate the identity of the three final players in the Dragon’s assault on the Church – the Dragon himself, the Beast (the beast from the sea), and the False Prophet (the beast from the earth). These characters are clearly identified in Revelation 12 and 13. The False Prophet is the two-horned beast of Revelation 13:11, and in the final verses of that chapter, there is much to be learned about the role this world power plays as it fulfills its destiny on the final stage of history. In this study, and those that immediately follow, we will examine the various terms and phrases given to us in the text of Scripture that provide God’s people with a great deal of information they will need from this point forward in their lives – “the mark of the beast”, “666”, the factors that enable this power to restrict the ability of the “righteous” to buy or sell and ultimately be marked for death, and much more. And so, we embark on the rest of the journey we have begun with an annotated look at **Revelation 13:11-18** — the focus of our study for the next few weeks. This passage is the heart of the final experience of the Church before Jesus returns, and the powers that will affect God’s people during that time:

**11 “Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth [*America*], and he had two horns [*two divisions of power*] like a lamb [*likeness to the Lamb*] and spoke like a dragon [*likeness to the Dragon*]. 12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast [*the Papacy*] in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men [*an allusion to Elijah on Mt Carmel*]. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image [*a likeness*] to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. 15 He was granted [power] to give breath [*life*] 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. 16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of [*a*] man: His number [is] 666.” Revelation 13:11-18.**







## FIRST: The Wound of “the first beast” — the Beast of the Sea (verses 12 and 14)

And I saw one of his heads [*the seventh, to be exact*] as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. ... And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to make war [*margin*] for forty-two months. ... 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. ... He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. ... Revelation 13:3, 5, 7, 10.

In Revelation 13, there are two beasts – “the first beast” and “another beast” – the Beast from the Sea and the Beast from the Earth. The first beast receives a deadly wound by the sword and yet lives. That wound is healed in time, and the power of this beast becomes great again, so that he persecutes the saints at the end of time for “forty-two months” — three-and-a-half years! This time prophecy is found in several places in Scripture and represents the period of time we can expect to endure the wrath of Satan and his agents — the Great Tribulation that ushers in the dramatic second coming of Jesus Christ! It is also the same period of time during which the spectacular judgments of God fall upon the earth to announce the end of time and the “Day of the Lord.” AND it is the same period of time during which the “Two Witnesses” and the “144,000” speak to a world facing judgment about the “everlasting gospel” in the setting of the judgment hour. It is the voice of God to the world through His servants to call them to Himself before the end comes.

What is this “wound” that is inflicted on the papacy? We have identified the first beast previously as the papacy – the “Holy” Church of Rome. But this prophecy, written sixteen centuries before it is fulfilled, came to pass just as predicted, when Napoleon’s General Berthier took the pope captive in A.D. 1798, in exact fulfillment of the prophecy.

Berthier and his army captured Pope Pius VI and unceremoniously removed him from the papal throne. The blow to the papacy was serious, but, according to Revelation 13:12, the deadly wound would be healed. And so it was! In 1929, Mussolini, under the Lateran Treaty, restored to the pope his original civil authority and returned to the papal empire all the geographical territory that had been taken from it during its “captivity”.

This aspect of the prophecy of Revelation 13 simply bolsters the conclusions to which we have come regarding the Beast of the Sea! The deadly wound by the sword, the renewed life of the papacy and the healing of the wound – all points once more to the identity of this empire of the Church of Rome – a power that is “worshipped” by the world at the end of time, just before the return of Christ.

Next week we will focus our study on:

- ◇ The Authority of the First Beast – In His Presence (verse 12)
- ◇ Deception by Signs and Wonders – (verses 13 and 14)
- ◇ The Reference to Elijah (verse 13)

Stay tuned!

