

March 1, 2025

# West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

## "The Lamb and the Dragon"

Have you seen these images of what's going on in America? They tell a story of great interest and intrigue!



Pictured here are the leaders of our nation in prayer, as the president conducts his first Cabinet meeting of his second term, February 26, 2025. If you would like to watch the prayer offered, click link:

<https://youtu.be/vSpMNOdv7NM>

And here Vice-President J.D. Vance addresses the 20th National Catholic Prayer Breakfast Thursday, February 27, 2025 and speaks of his faith and how his church and position in the White House blend. If you wish to hear the entire speech, click: [https://youtu.be/lxGnxfW\\_qo](https://youtu.be/lxGnxfW_qo)



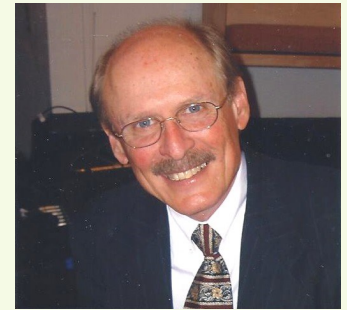
There's nothing more inspiring as a Christian than to know that the leaders of your homeland are Christians and integrate their faith in all the affairs of their governance of our nation. I love hearing members of Congress, Cabinet members, and the officials of state government declare their allegiance to God, speak unabashedly of their faith in Christ, and stand up for the Christian principles upon which our nation was founded. And this is what we're seeing in America like never before! Something new is transpiring in America — something of prophetic significance.

Revelation 13:11 describes America at the end of time in this way:

**And I saw another beast coming up out of the [earth], and it had two horns, like a lamb, and it was speaking as a dragon. *Young's Literal Translation.***

We have previously identified this second beast of Revelation 13 as America — a nation of renown in the world, rising up out of the wilderness of this continent during the Middle Ages as a refuge for those who were seeking the freedom to worship God according to their consciences and the Word of God rather than as dictated by

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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.***



Our Instructor, Jessica Lindsey

## John 18

### Jesus Arrested

1 When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.

3 So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

5 "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) 6 When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

7 Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they said.

8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." 9 This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me." [fn]

10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

11 Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

12 Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him 13 and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. 14 Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

### Peter's First Denial

15 Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, 16 but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

17 "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter.


He replied, "I am not."

18 It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

### The High Priest Questions Jesus

19 Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

20 "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple,



where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. 21 Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.”

22 When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded.

23 “If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” 24 Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

### **Peter’s Second and Third Denials**

25 Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, “You aren’t one of his disciples too, are you?”

He denied it, saying, “I am not.”

26 One of the high priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, “Didn’t I see you with him in the garden?” 27 Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

### **Jesus Before Pilate**

28 Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. 29 So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?”

30 “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.”

31 Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”

“But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. 32 This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

33 Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

34 “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

35 “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

36 Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

37 “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

38 “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. 39 But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?”

40 They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.





## Questions

### 1) Why might so many come to arrest Jesus?

**Matt 26:55** In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me.

### 2) Why did Jesus, fully knowing what would take place, ask the soldiers who they were looking for?

Possibly to get in front of the situation “This shows that Jesus was completely in control of the situation. As a practical matter, Jesus did not have to go with this arresting army led by Judas. With God’s power expressed through His words alone, Jesus could have overpowered them and easily escaped.”

### 3) What do you think explains Simon Peter’s aggression?

**Mat 26:35** But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.

**Luke 22:38 36** He said to them, “But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. 37 It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’<sup>[fn]</sup>; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.” 38 The disciples said, “See, Lord, here are two swords.” “That’s enough!” he replied.

### 4) How many times did Peter deny Jesus?

**Matt 26:55** In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me.

### 5) What does the role of high priest represent/shadow? (Irony #1)

**Heb 7:23-25 23** Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; 24 but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. 25 Therefore he is able to save completely<sup>[fn]</sup> those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them

### 6) Why did Pilate come out to talk (why didn’t the Jewish leaders go in? (Irony #2)

**Is 53:7** He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

**John 1:29** The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

the Church of Rome. America, seen by John as a two-horned beast, was a nation established with a cooperative division of power within it, governed by the two bodies of Congress which create laws, establish governing policies, and control the direction of the country. Further, the principles of the Constitution, upon which all national law is based, requires that government cannot regulate or infringe upon the religion of its citizens — creating another cooperative division of authority, the separation of church and state.



**The Capitol — Halls of Congress**



**The Current 119th Congress**

There are two more very significant characteristics of America, especially at the end of time, which are now surfacing according to prophecy! This two-horned beast is:


- ◆ **“Like a lamb”** — literally, bearing the characteristics of and a faith in **the Lamb** — a Christian nation. There are 32 times in the New Testament where the word “lamb” is used, and every time it occurs it is in reference to Jesus Christ, literally or in type. This time is no different.
- ◆ **“Speaking like a dragon”** — literally, speaking like **the Dragon** — a word used only 12 times in the Bible and always in reference to Satan — this time is no different.

America, since its birth as a nation, has never looked more *like “the Lamb”* than it does today! Though there is a very dark side of America — corrupt, evil, lawless, and anti-Christian — in the past few weeks, America now has leaders in government who are hunting down the wrong-doers (i.e., the Epstein files, the JFK and RFK assassination files, fraud and graft in government agencies, etc.) and are vindicating the wrongfully accused, aggressively pursuing world peace, and bringing America back to a recognition of a God who has been missing in our culture! America is currently fulfilling its destiny as a powerful, Christian nation on the world stage!

The final characteristic of America listed in this verse (Revelation 13:11) is that America will **speak like the Dragon**. What does this mean? When I first think of how a nation might speak like a dragon, I think of Hollywood’s portrayal of dragons — speaking with a mighty roar that makes the earth shake! I think of a terrible, ugly beast that is ferocious, aggressive, and destructive, much like the beast Daniel sees in vision representing pagan Rome. And in some sense, America is now manifesting a strength on the world stage that I suppose could be likened to that of a dominant beast nation, with its demands for fairness and peace among nations.

However, we must be faithful to Scripture and allow the Bible to interpret itself — a principle particularly important in the study of critical teachings of doctrine and prophecy. And the Bible **does** make clear the meaning of this phrase describing America as we approach Jesus’ return. Please note the following points:

- 1) Since the Dragon is just another name for “that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world” (Revelation 12:9), we must interpret the voice of America at the end in that light! And when the Devil (the Dragon) speaks, what does he say and how does he say it? One hint is in the verse we just quoted — “he deceives the whole world!” Jesus called the Devil “a liar and the father of



lies” (John 8:44). And in one of the very first stories of the Bible, “the serpent” (Satan) is described as “more cunning than any other beast.” He lied to Eve and told her that what God had said was untrue and then deceived her by showing her that the forbidden fruit was “good for food, pleasant to the eyes, and desired to make one wise” (Genesis 3:6). Paul says Eve “was deceived.” In Revelation, Satan is often identified by his deceptive nature, “deceiving the nations.” So the first thing we need to realize in attempting to understand this attribute of America is that **lies** and **deception** will be a major issue for the corrupt religion and corrupt government that will soon persecute those who refuse to bow to her corrupt mandates.

- 2) Secondly, we must recognize that only that which impacts the followers of Christ is of any significance when it comes to the lies and deception of the Dragon and his agents of prophecy. While lies and deception are embedded in the very fabric of the corrupt government we have been used to, Revelation 13:11 is not about corruption in general, but in relationship to the lives and faith of God’s people at the end of time. Sin and evil are everywhere in our world and will be until sin and evil and evildoers are destroyed. But only that which impacts those for whom Christ shed His blood is to be considered relative to the interpretation of prophetic passages.
- 3) So how will this “voice of the Dragon” be heard, as per this text? The answer is in the verses which follow:

**And he [the two-horned beast] 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... 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, ...telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast... 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 13:12-15.**

These verses are about the “False Prophet,” (another name for a false Christianity, based upon a “false Gospel” and “doctrines of devils”) now rising to power within America — Protestants, Catholics, and Evangelicals Together — forming a coalition of religion which will dominate America and mandate the inclusion of and the “worship” of the “first beast” (the Papacy), “the harlot” (the Church of Rome) and allegiance to that beast and to the **likeness** of that beast (Evangelical/Protestant America) in American religious life! And the prophecy says that those who refuse allegiance will be marked for death!

- 4) The deception and lies of “the speech of the Dragon” of Revelation 13:11 will be of a religious nature, just as it has always been. “Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light” 2 Corinthians 11:14. This False Prophet will perform “signs and wonders” to demonstrate its credibility and seek to deceive the world into complying with its religious demands. It will seek to bring together all faiths under the banner of Christianity but will deny its very claim to truth by its doctrines and demands. It will look like Christianity, just as many view the Catholic Church today — a Christian, charitable institution, yet it will be false to its very core.

Yet though the deceptions of the coming days sweep an entire world into rebellion against God, those who make the Word of God alone their source of truth, Jesus Christ alone their Sovereign, His grace alone their certainty of eternal life, and faith alone their claim upon it all — they will live through the times ahead and claim their crown when Jesus returns!



## **"REVELATION IN REVIEW" — Part 15**

### **Revelation 18**

Revelation 18 begins with a recap of the focal scenes of Revelation 14. Note the comparison:

**Revelation 14:6-11** — Then I saw another **angel flying in the midst of heaven**, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people – saying with a **loud voice**, "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." And another angel followed, saying, "**Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.**" Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "**If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 'he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. ... And they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.'**"


**Revelation 18:1-5, 8** — After these things I saw another **angel coming down from heaven**, having great authority, and **the earth was illuminated with his glory**. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "**Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.**" And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "**Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.** For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. ... **her plagues** will come in one day--death and mourning and famine....for **strong is the Lord God who judges her.**

These warnings by the angels, or special messengers of God just before Jesus returns, are not just to announce the judgment and fall of Babylon (the coalition of false religion representing Antichrist). These verses describe God's last attempt to call His children out of the system of false religion before she (Babylon, the Harlot, the False Prophet) is judged, condemned, and punished by the plagues which will be poured out upon her and all her followers – those who have the "mark of the beast."

The seven last plagues have already been described and listed in the order of their occurrence in Revelation 16, and the Harlot who has prostituted the Christian faith by using it to mask her own abominations and engage in illicit relations with the kings of the earth for her own power, glory, and benefit, has been unmasked for who she is in Revelation 17. Now, God describes in detail His judgment upon Babylon. In addition, in the details of this chapter, we find further confirmation and understanding as to the character of this conglomerate system of false religion. Note a few of the incriminating allusions to who Babylon is:

**"The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, ...saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'** And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: **merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen**






and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, **and bodies and souls of men.** The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. **The merchants** of these things, **who became rich by her**, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, **that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.**' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?' They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which **all who** had ships on the sea **became rich by her wealth!** For in one hour she is made desolate.' **"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her! ...The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. The light of a candle shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."** Revelation 18:9-24.

Note four characteristics of Babylon described in this passage:

- 1) She is rich – no religious organization holds more wealth than the Church of Rome! She is wealthy beyond measure. "The Catholic Church's wealth is estimated to be at least \$73 billion in assets, but some sources suggest it could be as high as \$265 billion. The church's finances are largely secret, making it difficult to determine an exact figure." *Wikipedia and Marketplace*. "The Roman Catholic is almost certainly the wealthiest organization in the world." *Church and State*.
- 2) No other religious organization has done more commerce with the merchants of the world than the Church of Rome. "The Vatican has billions of shares in the most powerful international corporations [in the world], such as Gulf Oil, Shell, General Motors, Bethlehem Steel, General Electric, International Business Machines, T.W.A., etc. ... It did have a holding company called Bank of America." (*Various sources*).
- 3) The Church of Rome is said to have commerce with the nations of the world, but her merchandise includes "the bodies and souls of men." Not only was she responsible for the cruel deaths of millions upon millions of Christians during the Reformation years, she has been documented by historians to have done business with the Nazi's during the holocaust. In addition, much of her wealth has been gained by her "fleecing" of gullible patrons seeking the promise of heaven through indulgences and contributions to the church, but the promotion of loved ones from "purgatory" to the heavenly realms – as if she had the authority of granting eternal life!
- 4) Revelation 18 identifies Babylon as being a place where fine music is heard, where weddings are conducted, and where candles are burned. Where else do these things happen than in a church –





and not just any church, but especially Catholic churches! All this language is especially incriminating to the Church of Rome, and is found in the liturgy of her “daughters.”

Finally, we must note that God’s judgment on Babylon is severe and final. Verse 21 says, “Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, ‘Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.’” And as you might imagine, not only is heaven jubilant over the final end of Babylon, the cause of the agony and torture of God’s people throughout the ages and the absolute corruption of the faith given to the Church by Jesus Christ Himself, but the saints finally feel vindicated by God for all they have endured.

Next week we look at Revelation 19 – a chapter that tells of the rejoicing of heaven over the judgment of Babylon, the marriage of Christ to His Church, and the description of the coming of Jesus as “King of kings and Lord of lords!” It only gets better from here!!!

Stay tuned!