

January 11, 2025

# *West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter*

## **"Unstoppable"**

For the past several days, multiple fires have been raging through populated areas of Los Angeles County, and continue to ravage expensive homes and prime properties, killing thus far at least 10 people. Low humidity, compromised water resources, and winds exceeding 80-100 miles/hour have contributed to one of the largest combined fires in California history. One reporter at the scene of the fires described this fire as "unstoppable".

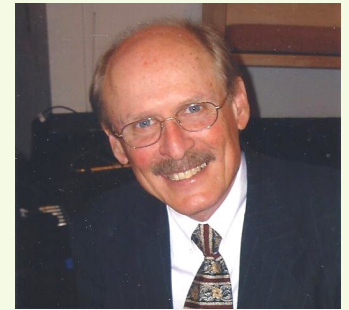
This story reminds me of an important prophecy of Revelation about fire. No, it's not the "lake of fire" story. Though that fire will definitely be unstoppable and will complete its purpose of destroying evil and evildoers forever, never to be seen again in God's perfect new universe. I'm thinking of a different fire of prophecy – one spoken of in Revelation 11.

**And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophecy one thousand two hundred and sixty days.... And if anyone wants to harm them, FIRE proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner." Revelation 11:3, 5.**

Because the Book of Revelation is the story of the advance of evil upon Christ and His Church and the final victory of the Warrior of Heaven over evil, the focus of much of the Book of prophecy is on the characters and actions of the Devil and his agencies over the centuries, and particularly at the end of time. In this segment, I want to highlight this text in Revelation which tells of the unstoppable, devouring fire which proceeds from the mouths of God's special messengers as the final battle between good and evil rages just before the return of Christ.

In Revelation 11, the chapter we last studied in our series, we find the story of the "two witnesses." Jesus said in Matthew 24 that the Gospel of His Kingdom would be proclaimed in all the world, and then He would come. In Revelation 14:6, John tells us of an angel messenger flying in the midst of heaven proclaiming the everlasting Gospel to the entire world **in the time of the judgment hour** – just another account of the same story. In Revelation 6:2 he speaks of a Rider on a white horse going out "conquering and to conquer" – Jesus Christ in the person of His people carrying out an "offensive" against the kingdom of this world with the Gospel on their lips. In

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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 13:31-14:14

### Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

**31** When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. **32** If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. **33** "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. **34** "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." **36** Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." **37** Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." **38** Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

## John 14

### Jesus Comforts His Disciples

**1** "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. **2** My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. **4** You know the way to the place where I am going."


### Jesus the Way to the Father

**5** Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" **6** Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7** If you really

know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." **8** Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." **9** Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? **10** Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **11** Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. **12** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

### Questions:

1. What do you think is the purpose of v31 & v32
2. What is the new command and why did Jesus give it? V34
3. What is the way to the place where Jesus is going? v6
4. Why do you think Phillip asked to see the Father?
5. Where else has Jesus made the same statements he made in v10-11?
6. What does Jesus mean in v12?
7. How should Christians interpret v13 and v14? Who is Jesus talking to?



Revelation 7 and 14, there are 144,000 “servants of God” with the same mission. And then in Revelation 11:5, the “two witnesses” are seen delivering the same authoritative message with such incredible power that their voices are likened to an unstoppable fire which cannot be quenched!

All these inspired accounts are the same story – a story of the voice of God in the person of His Church, and at the end, His chosen servant messengers, announcing to the world with unmistakable power and clarity the only way of salvation for a world under judgment for its sin, wickedness, evil, and their rejection of a Savior who offers eternal life to all who will place their faith in Him!

Soon we will hear the voices of these chosen messengers in the world. Their voices will be unmistakable and their message clear. And the Bible tells us that their ministry will continue for three-and-a-half-years – the same period of time identified in Scripture as the Great Tribulation. Then Jesus will come! I’m waiting! I’m watching! I’m anxious for that day – how about you?

In Him,  
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## “REVELATION IN REVIEW” — Part 8

### **Revelation 12**


Of all the 22 chapters in the Book of Revelation, chapter 12 not only has the distinction of containing the middle or central verses of the entire book, but this chapter also contains the central theme story of the book. The story of the rebellion of Lucifer in heaven and the war which broke out between Christ and His angels and Lucifer and his angels – this war which caused Satan and his angels to be cast out of heaven becomes the backdrop, the watermark behind which ALL of the prophecies of John find their meaning. **This chapter is the foundation of understanding all that follows in the remainder of Revelation!**

When Lucifer, a created being, an angel and once a “covering cherub” in heaven, sought to overthrow Christ (“Michael the archangel”), who was also the Son of God and eternal with the Father, it resulted in a “war in heaven” resulting in Lucifer and a third of the angels of heaven being defeated and cast out of heaven to earth – the home of God’s new creation, the human family. And when Satan saw that he was defeated, he took out his rage against Christ on the family of mankind, whom God had created in His own image.

The twelfth chapter of Revelation begins with a picture of a “woman”, who represents the Church of Jesus Christ, from whom was born the Babe of Bethlehem. While the imagery of the first few verses of this chapter depict Mary giving birth to Jesus, her “labor” and “pain” in giving birth, Mary is only the instrument within the larger Church to participate in the incarnation of Jesus Christ into the human family as the One who would bear our sin and die our death.

And who, according to John, was waiting to “devour her Child as soon as it was born”? The “Dragon”, in later verses identified as “that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan”, who with his angels had been cast out of heaven to the earth. For him, the “war” against Christ was not over. And for the next six





thousand years, Satan would seek revenge for his defeat, attempt to end the life of Christ, both in Bethlehem and at Calvary, and when he was to fail, he would seek to destroy the Church, pursuing the people of God to the very end of time when he would finally be destroyed in the fires of hell!

**NOTE** – this Dragon is described as having seven heads and ten horns” representing seven world empires through which he would work throughout his time on earth to destroy the followers of Christ. Using the prophecies of Daniel to help us understand the world empires represented, they are: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, pagan Rome and papal Rome. We will make reference to these empires in coming studies.

Revelation 12 is divided into four sections – literally four eras of time as follows:

The Church of the First Century – Bethlehem, Calvary, Resurrection and Ascension, the Church militant and persecuted, the role of pagan Rome, and the flight of the Church to the “wilderness” – Revelation 12:1-6, 10-12

The War in Heaven – which began before the creation of the world and becomes the foundational cause of the story of Revelation from which all else must be viewed – Revelation 12:7-9


The Church of the Middle Ages – the centuries leading up to and including the Days of the Protestant Reformation – Revelation 12:13-16

The Church of the Last Days – the era of time in which we find ourselves – Revelation 12:17

### **The Church of the First Century**

The birth of Christ marks the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Church. In fact, the reckoning of time itself is built around the birth of Christ (B.C./A.D.) – the great event of human history to which all of God’s people looked forward in the Old Testament period, and the great event to which all of God’s people have looked backward in the New Testament period and all the way to the return of Jesus. The first part of chapter 12 is the story of the Devil’s revenge against Christ, first at the time of His birth, then at the time of death on the cross. Once the Devil, called “the Dragon” in this chapter and in future chapters of Revelation, was no longer able to pursue Christ in person, he focused all of his rage toward Christ upon the followers of Christ, the “woman” of Revelation 12. John describes his pursuit of the people of God and his attempts to blot them out as he had sought to destroy Jesus. But John tells us that “the woman fled to the wilderness” where she was protected for “one thousand two hundred and sixty days.” (This prophecy was fulfilled from 67-70 A.D. when Rome surrounded, then destroyed, Jerusalem. Jesus had told His disciples that when they saw Jerusalem surrounded by armies, they were to flee, and those who heeded the prophecy were spared the onslaught of pagan Rome against the city – a “shadow” of the experience of the Church of the last days — and another study of its own).

Revelation 12:10-12 tells us that the “apparent defeat” of Christ by Satan at Calvary was instead Christ’s victory over the Devil – the death knell for Satan. And in these verses, heaven is celebrating the victory of Christ over “the Dragon.” His death and resurrection guaranteed that the “time” of Satan’s influence and work of evil in the world, his persecution of the Church, was “short.” Knowing that His death on Calvary would be Satan’s defeat, Jesus told His followers, “Now is the judgment of this world:



now is the ruler of this world will be cast out” John 12:31. Let’s never forget, in our battle against “the prince of this world”, that **he is a defeated foe**. As Christians, we are no longer subject to his power, his tricks, his deceptions, or his enticements! He was defeated at Calvary, and is soon to be destroyed forever in the fires of hell! Satan knows this, and that realization has caused him to double down on his efforts to destroy the end-time Church – the bride of Christ – through deception and outright assault.

From Calvary to the return of Christ, the followers of Christ would “overcome” the enemy of their souls “by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.” And for God’s people, though their testimony would result in the rage of Satan and his agents against them, even to death, the story of Christ would be the guarantee of their victory, and their attitude, as seen throughout the ages, would be, “they loved not their lives even unto death!” These are the words of this prophecy!

### **The War In Heaven**

For the details of how such a thing could possibly happen in heaven, see Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:11-19.

### **The Church of the Middle Ages**

And so we look back on history as Satan sets the stage for his deadly assault on the Church of the Middle Ages. He began by introducing error and falsehood into the Church. John speaks of this in his letters to the Church, and Paul describes this as well. He, Satan, used Rome to persecute the Church, and through the centuries which follow, he corrupted Christianity and set up a false religion that bears the name of Christ – deceiving the world by making an evil system appear godly and charitable. The Church of Rome became his instrument of assault on the followers of Christ, and for 1260 years (538-1798 A.D.) he used false, corrupt Christianity to slaughter tens of millions of Christ’s followers. Revelation 12:14-16 describes the Church of Christ pursued by the Dragon during the Middle Ages. And again, many of God’s people find refuge in “the wilderness” – isolated places of protection. In fact, America itself, a “wilderness” at that time, became a bastion of freedom.

### **The Church of the Last Days**

Revelation 12:17 describes the final chapter in the War between Satan and Christ, in the person of His Church. This verse says, “And the dragon was **enraged** with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest [remnant] of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God [all of them!] and have the testimony of Jesus Christ [the Gospel of Scripture].” The Church of the last remnant of time on earth will be faithful to Jesus Christ and will have the story of His saving grace on their lips! And the fourth commandment of God’s Law, the seventh-day Sabbath, will be integral to their “worship of Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water” – a quote from the fourth commandment! Exodus 20:11; Revelation 14:7.

Next week we study Revelation 13 – the “Axis of Evil” at war against the “remnant” of Jesus Christ.

Stay tuned!