

Lamb or Beast?

#0108

Study Given by W. D. Frazee

Of all the books in the 66 of the Bible, there is one that, in a special way, focuses upon the last generation. Men have called it the Revelation of Saint John, the one who wrote it, but the opening lines of the book give its true name:

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto his servant John” Revelation 1:1.

This book of Revelation gives us the last message to the last generation. The 14th chapter is the key to the whole book; it's the heart of the whole book.

Tonight, I begin with you a series on the third angel's message.

“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb” Revelation 14:9–10.

Here is a warning against false worship, the worship of the beast and his image and the reception of his mark. The wrath of God is threatened against those who disregard his warning and worship the beast and his image. What this wrath is is mentioned in Revelation, the 15th chapter and the 1st verse:

“And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God” Revelation 15:1.

The wrath of God is in the seven last plagues. And the fact that these are called the seven ‘last’ plagues indicates that this is the message to the last generation, for these plagues fall immediately before the appearing of Jesus in the clouds of Heaven.

The first plague is a terrible epidemic of awful sores that no doctor can cure—painful. In the second plague, the sea is turned to blood, and in the third plague, the rivers and fountains of waters become blood. In the fourth plague, the sun smites with

great heat, and in the fifth plague, there is darkness. And the sixth plague is the gathering by wicked spirits of all nations to the great final battle of Armageddon. In the seventh plague, the voice of God sounds down through Orion, the whole earth shakes, and every mountain is moved. Hailstones fall from Heaven upon the wicked, as they have joined in rebellion against God, and, finally, Christ appears.

These are the plagues in which is filled up the wrath of God. And they come upon those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark. You would think that everyone would be interested in knowing exactly what the beast is, what his image is, what his mark is, and how to escape these threatenings. These are not idle threatenings of God. In love, in mercy, He tells us what's coming so that we can get ready and escape. Back in Noah's day, the wickedness of men made the flood imperative. For over a hundred years, God had Noah give the message, calling men to repentance. He had Noah build an ark; his work showed his faith. All who accepted his message and obeyed it were saved; all who rejected it were lost.

Jesus says, "Even so shall the coming of the Son of man be." There is a great peril, a great danger, that human beings will think that, as long as they go ahead and live a reasonably good life, pay their debts and be good citizens, and go to a church, and do the best they know to be good neighbors, that somehow everything will turn out right. We are in no ordinary hour. Even some of the people of this world sense that a terrible crisis is just ahead. What is happening in Washington, in the Middle East and Asia, and happens in various parts of the world are but the rumblings of a storm which is to engulf civilization. But the people of God do not need to be afraid if they will listen to what God has told them in the book of Revelation, study it with all their hearts, and follow it with all their souls. They can be saved.

Notice that this is a controversy over worship. "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God." That's the *false* worship. The *true* worship is mentioned in the first angel's message:

"Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" Revelation 14:7.

Worship the Creator. Everyone, whether he knows it or not, even the atheist, the infidel, everybody in this world worships something. Although there are gods many and lords many, visible and invisible, there are only two kinds of worship: the worship of the Creator (the One who made everything) and the worship of the creature (worshiping something that God made instead of the God who made it). Through the thousands of human history, men have worshipped all kinds of things, even beetles, crocodiles, bulls, lions, pigs. And they worshiped other men. The Roman emperors were deified. They accepted honors as to a divine being. Even in the so-called 'church of Christ,' there have been those who claim those honors.

It's amazing how many millions of people worship *themselves*. That, in some ways, is the most hopeless of all idolatry. You can never be far from that false god. God is going to have some people down here in this world in whose hearts self-idolatry, which lies at the foundation of all sin, has been thoroughly crucified. They worship the Lord, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and they worship Him with all the heart.

This crisis of who is to be worshipped finds its visible signs in two marks spoken of in the book of Revelation. The mark in the right hand or the forehead is the sign of false worship.

“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name” Revelation 13:16–17.

There is coming a boycott, friends. This is a very interesting prophecy, written way back then when the Bible was written nearly 2,000 years ago, foretelling in this last generation economic pressures to enforce a mark. Interestingly enough, there never was a time in all the history of civilization when a boycott could be enforced so easily, and with so much teeth in it. Nearly all the people in America are dependent upon buying and selling in order to survive. But here the great enemy harnesses all that economic machinery, and he's going to use it to try to enforce this false mark.

Will you take it? You won't be able to buy or sell if you *don't* take that mark—*starve* you. But on the other hand, God says that if you *do* receive that mark, you'll lose your soul. Look over the past ages. Think of the millions of martyrs that gladly gave up their lives rather than disown their Lord and dishonor their Creator. Are there martyrs today? Is the spirit of the martyrs gone? Are there men and women and children here tonight that will be martyrs for Jesus? I pray that every one of us will settle that there is just one thing we want—to be true to the One who gave Himself for us.

Now, here is a mark in the right hand or in the forehead—the mark of the beast. In contrast with this, in Revelation, the seventh chapter, we have *another* mark. Here are four angels pictures, holding the winds of strife and war and persecution. Here comes another angel from the east:

“... having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads” Revelation 7:2–3.

The mark of the beast is received either in the forehead or in the hand. *God's* mark, *God's* seal, *God's* sign is received only in the forehead. Do you know what that indicates? The Devil tries to deceive you and get you to believe his falsehoods. But if

he can't get you deceived, he's going to try to *force* you to work or rest, to live and act, in obedience to his dictates whether you believe it or not. But God has no mark except in the forehead. Your mind must be settled. Your heart must be given to Him. He can accept only willing service, voluntary obedience. And right here we see the difference between the *character* of God and the *character* of Satan.

Oh friends, I want to make the dear Lord happy by yielding Him my mind, my forebrain, that in those brain cells this mark may be imprinted. What do you say?

Let's go back to Revelation 13, and I want to show you something really interesting. You may have noticed this before. But there's somebody here who hasn't noticed. It might be you. "And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Some people are going to have the *name* of the beast. In fact, other translations render this that no man might buy or sell except he that had the mark, that is the name of the beast or the number of his name. The name of the beast and his mark are closely connected. This is equally true with *God's* mark. We saw that God's *sign* was put in the forehead. Now, look at Revelation 14 verse 1.

"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father's name written in their foreheads" Revelation 14:1.

Ah, here it is. Revelation 7 is spoken of as the *sea* of God in the forehead. Here it is spoken of as the *name* of God in the forehead. In the Bible, names are not merely titles. They are not merely labels. Names stand for characters. For example, when the angel was announcing the birth of Jesus, he said, "...Call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins" (Luke 1:31). The name 'Jesus' means 'Savior.' So the Bible names mean something. The name of God means something. God's name is His character.

When we read that those who stand for God in earth's last hour, who stand with the Lamb on Mount Zion, have His name and His Father's name written in their foreheads, what we are seeing is a group of people who reflect the image of Jesus fully.

And so, with these worshipers of the beast, they have gone so far in worship, in adoration, in imitation of the beast power that *his* name is imprinted in *their* foreheads.

"These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast" Revelation 17:13.

This is what we are dealing with. This world is in harvest time. And there are two crops that are ripening up: the harvest of wheat, golden grain for the garner of God, and the harvest of grapes, representing the wicked, to be trodden in the winepress of His wrath. Thank God, you and I have the choice of which we will turn out to be.

But when the harvest finally comes and the wheat is ready for the sickle, and the grapes are ready for the winepress, it will be too late to turn around and say, “Oh, I want to go a different road.” *Now* is the time to prepare. That’s why I’m studying this with you tonight.

Here are the two classes: those who have the mark of the beast, who worship the beast, who have the name of the beast, the nature of the beast, and on the other hand, those who worship God as Creator, who have His sign, His seal, His mark, who have His name written in their foreheads. They reflect the image of Jesus fully. I’ve been thinking about it, friends. What a difference between being a lamb and being a wild beast! But every person has the potential of one or the other. There is nobody here so good but what you can eventually turn into a wild beast. There is nobody here so bad, so wayward, so full of faults and mistakes. There is nobody here who has fallen so low but what God can take you and write His name in your forehead, His law in your heart, His character in your life, and make you like Him for eternal ages. And every soul will *very* soon wind up like one or the other—like the lamb or like the wild beast. Think of the difference between the two.

A lamb *follows*; a wild beast *charges*. So Peter says:

“... your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” 1 Peter 5:8.

This beast that’s described here is mentioned as a beast ‘like unto a leopard’:

“And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority” Revelation 13:2.

He talks through his mouth. He roars like a lion. When I let my mouth be used to speak angry words, words of passion, selfishness, hatred, who is speaking? The beast is speaking. I’m talking like that beast. Oh, I want to be a lamb, not a wild beast! What do you say?

And I gather courage when I see “a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father's name written in their foreheads.” They come from this earth.

“...These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb” Revelation 14:4.

They come from this sinful world. I want to be among them. I want to be a lamb. I want to follow my leader, follow my Lord.

Did you ever hear someone say, "I want you to accept me just for what I am. I want you to accept me as a person. Love me the way I am and don't try to make me the way you think I ought to be"? There is a type of Gospel today that advocates that sort of thing. Do you know why God can't go along with that idea? Because He is love.

Let me illustrate. Suppose someone brings in a chunk of ore. Suppose I happen to be a chemist that knows how to deal with ore and metal. And I look at that chunk of ore, and I examine it; I take some of it and test it. And I say, "I'd like to take that ore and put it through the smelter. There's precious gold in there, but there's a lot of dross also. Besides the dirt and the stone that's in there, there are metals of lesser value. I want to take that chunk of ore and refine it."

Suppose that ore could speak and say, "No, if you're going to take me, take me just like I am. I want you to accept me as a person. I don't want you to try to make me over."

Again and again in the Bible, God uses the figure of refining ore:

"And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years" Malachi 3:3-4.

"And I will turn My hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin" Isaiah 1:25.

"I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir" Isaiah 13:12.

That so-called Gospel which talks about the love of God just accepting everybody the way they are and making no effort to change them is a *false* Gospel. It's not in the Bible. And I ask, "Why is that so?" Because God is love.

Let me give you another illustration. Suppose I go to see a doctor; I have a pain. I tell the doctor about the pain. And I say, "Doctor, I want you to give me something for that pain." If he's a good doctor, do you know what he will do? He will begin to find out what's making the pain. But suppose when he has made the examination, he says, "Look here, there are a number of things in your life that are going to have to be changed if you want to get rid of that pain. There are a number of habits that are going to have to be different."

Suppose I say, "Doctor, I don't want that. I want you to accept me as a person. I have come here with just one purpose. I have a pain, and I want you to give me

something for it. And don't bother with my life, doctor. I will live my own life. I want you to give me something to stop the pain, and I'll pay you for it."

Do you want to be that kind of patient? I hope not. And will you even *think* of coming to the Great Physician, to Jesus Christ, and saying, "Lord, I hear that you love people. I want you to love me, but don't try to make my life over. Don't tamper with me and my habits. Just accept me as a person."

Do you see what I am getting at? Every person here has the potential to either be like the wild beast or to be like Jesus, the Lamb of God; either to reflect His image fully or else to bear the image of the satanic, the corrupt, the cruel, the hateful and hated. Oh, this is the road you and I are traveling. Let us put away all the idea that there is somewhere in the middle, a class who are too good for hell even if they are not good enough for Heaven. No, no. This is harvest time. Every plant is going to seed.

When Jesus was hanging on the cross, what was at His right hand? Another cross. Was there someone on it? Yes. Who was it? A thief. At His left hand was *another* cross. Who was on *it*? Another *thief*. But as they hung there, something happened. Those two men—thieves, murderers, criminals—one of them became more and more like the Devil, and he went to his death thoroughly sealed in the likeness of the satanic. But the other, as he beheld the Lamb of God dying there, the Holy Spirit helped him to see that the Man that was dying on the middle cross was dying for *him*. And he cried for mercy. Did he *get* it? Oh, yes. One went to his death lost; the other went to his death saved.

There is hope for the worst sinner, the man who has made the most mistakes, the woman who has fallen the most, the young person who has failed God over and over again. You don't have to wind up like the wild beast. You don't have to end up with a mark in your right hand or in your forehead that's enforced by the beast and his image. You can bear the image of Jesus. But it will take some changing. You're not ready for Heaven yet. You're not even ready to live in this world a happy, holy life. You need some changing. Do you think so? Would you like to be changed? Or do you insist that God and those who represent the Master try to help you, accept you as you are, and not interfere with your life? Away with that so-called 'independence'! You may *think* that it shows independence, but it reveals slavery. Do you want me to prove that? Turn to Mark, the first chapter.

Jesus came to preach deliverance to the captives. And in the synagogue in Capernaum on the Sabbath day, He was preaching of His mission to free the captives. But suddenly, a wild cry broke out in the congregation. And a madman rushed forward. What did he say?

"Let us alone; what have we to do with Thee, Thou Jesus of Nazareth? art Thou come to destroy us? I know Thee who Thou art, the Holy One of God" Mark 1:24.

What did that man want? He wanted to be let alone. He didn't want anyone to interfere with his lifestyle. Who was talking? The Devil was talking. But oh, wonder of wonders, marvel of marvels, here was One who read the mind, who read the heart. Beneath that wild exterior, Jesus saw deep down in his soul that that man longed to be free. And however much you may have said, at times, words of resistance, even cruel words, God knows that deep down in your heart there are moments of longing when you wish oh so much to be freed from that rebellious spirit.

You can be free. Jesus is in the business of freeing prisoners. He freed this man:

“And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him” Mark 1:25.

Oh, if in your heart of hearts, deep down where no human can see, you'll say, “Lord, this is what I need. I need to be free from that beast power. I need to be freed from that unclean spirit which resists Thy loving law, which seeks to withstand Thy Holy Spirit.” You too can be free, for Jesus says:

“... whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered” Joel 2:32.

That promise is for you, my friend. Jesus died to break the stranglehold of Satan in your life. But no halfway measures will do. You cannot make a bargain with God. But as surely as Jesus cannot accept you if you hang on to your way, so surely you can be accepted, and accepted now if you will yield your life to Him.

The best news I know is this: if I will *choose* to be like Him, He *counts* me like Him. If I want to be a lamb, He says, “All right, you are My little lamb.” And I may look to others far from a lamb, and I may know about myself so many things that I can't see how God would ever *call* me a lamb, but God calls me a lamb the moment I accept the Lamb of God. And He begins the blessed work of changing me and transforming my life until I stand on Zion's hill with the Lamb, reflecting the image of Jesus fully.

But remember, my acceptance is the moment I accept Him. Just as soon as I accept *His* ideal as *my* ideal, that moment, He accepts me.

It sounds too good to be true, but it's too good *not* to be true. Why let the Devil bother your soul? Why let the enemy hound you and harass you and kick you around? Listen: you can be free not only from the hold of sin but you can be free from the depression and discouragement that the Devil would like to drag you down into.

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what

we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is”
1 John 3:1–2.

When is that? Right now, at 8 o'clock Friday night, here in this Wildwood chapel, right now, we are the sons of God. “Oh, I wish that were true for me!” Well, it is if I accept it. If I want to be His son, He wants me. And who's to say I can't? The Devil. Thank God, Satan doesn't vote in this election. No, he doesn't. God has chosen me, and I have chosen Him, and that settles it. I am not even going to ask the Devil's permission. It's none of his business.

“Now are we the sons of God. And it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as he is pure” 1 John 3:2–3.

God counts you His child the moment you accept Him. Then besides that, He carries on this blessed work and guarantees to make your character exactly like His. What more could He offer?

But He won't force it on you. If now and then you want to roar like a lion, He won't *make* you bleat like a lamb.

You say, “But Brother Frazee, you just don't know how folks treat me.”

No, I don't. But I tell you the way you treat them back will depend on whether you're a lion or a lamb. A lion gets his own way sometimes just because of the way he roars. Some people get out of his way. A lamb gets imposed upon.

“He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth” Isaiah 53:7.

Deep down in your heart, which do you want to be? Do you want to be like the lion, or do you want to be like the Lamb? Do you want to be like the wild beast, or do you want to be like Jesus? You can choose. You can't make yourself from a beast into a lamb, but Jesus is in the transforming business. That's why we need a Creator, for this takes creative power.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me” Psalm 51:10.

I want to read something from a little book that I love. It's called *Steps to Christ*. Some of you know what a wonderful volume it is. I believe it's inspired; I *know* it is.

What I read from the Bible, I'm going to read now from this little book:

"If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ's character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned" *Steps to Christ*, page 72.

Just as if you had not sinned. What is it that's going to happen, just as if you had not sinned? You're accepted. By who? By God. He accepts you just as if you had not sinned.

You say, "But I *have* sinned." Sure you have. But you are to be accepted just as *if* you had *not* sinned.

Can you get anything better than that, friends? And what does it depend upon? It depends upon you giving yourself to Him, sin and all, to be changed, transformed, made like Him. God is not going to testify to a lie. God is not going to call you a lamb when you really want to be a wild beast. No, no. He's not going to commit perjury. But if you will give yourself to Him, He knows that He can take those brain cells where the Devil has dwelled, and He can make you into a temple of the living God. He can take that beast nature and quiet it and calm it and change it and make you a lamb. A lamb, my friends! Wouldn't you like to be, for Jesus' sake?

Can you think of anything more wonderful than to be like Jesus? Oh, it's going to be wonderful to go with Him from world to world and star to star all through the universe of God. But friends, the most wonderful thing is this: I can be like Him. I want to be, don't you?

Do you want to send Jesus the word tonight that you want to be like Him, that you want to be like Him, you choose to be like Him, that you give Him the right of way to make you like Him? Ah, that God may grant your desire, and give you the desires of your heart. He says, "You shall seek Me and find Me when you shall search for Me with all your heart."

If you know that Jesus is yours and you are His, then I wish you would pray earnestly for those who do not have the evidence of their acceptance with God. And as we close this service tonight, I want to give an invitation to come to the Savior. To those who are needing an experience that you know you lack, I want to invite you to come up here and seek God with all your heart. Jesus will hear your prayer.

As Heaven looks at us, we can be divided into two classes: those who are safe in Jesus' hands and those who aren't—those who are accepted in the beloved and those who aren't. It isn't a matter of our thinking this or that or the other thing. We want to be *sure*, don't we?

If you've given your heart to Jesus, and you know He's accepted you, if you know that He's in the business of making you, like we've studied tonight, you can say from your heart, "Now are we the children of God." And we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him.

I wish that everybody who goes out of these doors tonight will go with that certainty in your soul. You can. If you already have it, fine; if you don't, come and seek God, and I know God will help you to have it before you leave.

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