

Messages from Revelation 11 of 16

Wrath of God

#0472

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—August 24, 1973

Of all the books in the 66, there is one that, in a special way, focuses upon the last generation, that happens to be the last book in the canon—the book of Revelation. Men have called it the Revelation of Saint John, the one that wrote it down. But the opening lines of the book give its true name:

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass...” Revelation 1:1.

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

Some weeks ago, I studied with you the first and second angel's messages. Tonight, I begin a series with you on the third angel's message. The ninth verse says:

“And the third angel followed them...”

That is the first and second angel.

“...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...” Revelation 14:9–10.

You notice, here is a warning against false worship, the worship of the beast and his image, and the reception of his mark. Against those who disregard this warning and worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark, the wrath of God is threatened. What this wrath is, is mentioned in Revelation 15:1

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

The wrath of God then, is in the seven last plagues. The fact that these are called the seven *last* plagues indicates, as we have already noted, that this is the message to the last generation, for these plagues as described in the 16th chapter of

the book of Revelation, fall immediately before the appearing of Jesus in the clouds of heaven.

The first is a terrible epidemic of awful sores that no doctor can cure. They're painful. In the second plague, the sea turns to blood. In the third, the rivers and fountains of waters become blood. In the fourth, the sun smites with great heat. In the fifth, there's darkness. The sixth is the gathering by wicked spirits of all nations to the great final battle of Armageddon. In the seventh plague, the voice God sounds down through Orion, the whole earth shakes, every mountain and island is moved, hailstones fall from heaven upon the wicked as they have joined in rebellion against God, and finally Christ appears.

This is the time of trouble that Daniel speaks of in the 12th chapter of his book, in the first verse. These are the plagues in which is filled up the wrath of God. And notice, 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 no idle threatenings of God. In love and mercy, He tells us what's coming so we can get ready and escape. Back in Noah's day, when the wickedness of men made the flood imperative, for over a hundred years, God had Noah give that 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. Even so, Jesus says, shall the coming of the Son of man be.

You see, dear friends, there's 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 just be good citizens, go to a church, some church, any church and do the best they know to be good neighbors, that somehow everything will turn out all right. We are in no ordinary hour, my friends. Even the people of this world, some of them sense that a terrible crisis is just ahead. What's happening in Washington, what has happened in the Middle East, what happens in Asia, what happens in the various parts of the world—these are but the rumblings of a storm which is to engulf civilization. But the people do not need to be afraid if they'll listen to what God us 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, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God—that's the false worship. The true worship is mentioned in the seventh verse 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. You see everybody, whether he knows it or not, even the atheist and infidel, everybody in this world worships something. And really, although there are gods many and lords many, visible and invisible, there's really two kinds of worship—the worship of the Creator, the One who made everything, and the worship of the creature—worshiping something God made instead of the God that made it. Through the thousands of years of human history, men have worshiped all kinds of things, even beetles, crocodiles, bulls, lions, and pigs. They have worshiped other men. The emperors were deified. They accepted honors as to a divine being. Even in the so-called church of Christ, there have been those who claimed those honors. But really, there are just two kinds of worship—worshipping the Creator, the One that made everything and worshipping the creature, the thing that's made.

It is amazing how many millions of people worship themselves. That in some ways, is the most hopeless of all idolatry, because you can never be far from that false god. God is going to have some people down here in this world today 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 worshiped finds its visible signs in two marks spoken of here in the book of Revelation. You notice in the first verse we read, the third angel says, "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." The mark in the right hand or in the forehead is the sign of false worship. In the 13th chapter, we have this mentioned again:

"And he causes 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's coming a boycott. This is a very interesting prophecy written way back there 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 here in America are dependent upon buying and selling in order to survive, am I correct?

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? Well, we just read here in Revelation 13, you won't be able to buy or sell if you don't take that mark. It'll starve you. But on the other hand, in our opening text, God says if you *do* receive that mark you'll lose your soul.

Look over the past ages and 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, young people, and children here tonight that will be martyrs for Jesus? Oh friends, I pray that every one of us will settle this moment that there's just one thing we want, and that is to be true to the One who gave Himself for us.

Here is the mark in the right hand or in the forehead, the mark of the beast. In contrast, in Revelation the seventh chapter, we have another mark. Here are four angels pictured 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.

Notice the mark of the beast is received either in the forehead or the hand. God's mark, God's seal, God's sign is received only in the forehead. 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.

Right here we see the difference between the character of God and the character of Satan. Oh friend, I want to make the dear Lord happy by yielding to Him my mind, my forebrain that in those brain cells this mark may be imprinted, what do you say?

Now 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 hasn't noticed it—it might be you.

“And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or...”

What?

“...the name of the beast, or the number of his name”
Revelation 13:17.

Some people are going to have the name of the beast. In fact, other translations render this, “That no man might buy or sell, save 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, God's sign, equally true. You remember over there in Revelation 7, we saw God's sign, God's seal, God's put where? In the forehead. Now look at Revelation 14:1:

“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...”

Where?

“...in their foreheads” Revelation 14:1.

Here it is. Revelation 7 is spoken of as the *seal* of God in the forehead. Here it’s spoken of as the *name* of God in the forehead. In the Bible, you may remember, names are not merely titles, they’re not merely labels. A name stands for character. For example, when the angel was announcing the birth of Jesus, he said:

“... call His name JESUS...”

Why?

“...for He shall save His people from their sins”
Matthew 1:21.

The name Jesus means Savior. It isn’t just a name we’d call a boy, like George or Harry. It means Savior. So Bible names meant something, and the name of God means something, my friends. God’s name is His character. And when we read here that these who stand for God in earth’s last hour, who stand with the Lamb on Mt. 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. So with these worshipers of the beast, they have gone so far in worship, in adoration, in admiration, in imitation of the beast power, that that name is imprinted in their forehead.

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

This is what we’re dealing with; this world is in the harvest time, as Revelation 14, 15 to the end of the chapter shows. There are two crops that are ripening up: The harvest of wheat, golden grain for the garner of God; 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.

Now notice, 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; 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 here 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 tonight so bad, so wayward, so full of faults and mistakes, there is nobody here that has fallen so low but what God can take him and write His name in your forehead, His law in your forehead, His character in your life, and make you like Him for eternal ages. And every soul here tonight will soon, 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 for the attack. So Peter says:

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

This beast that's described here is mentioned in the 13th chapter of Revelation as a beast:

“...like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion...” Revelation 13:2.

He talks through his mouth. He roars like a lion. When I let this mouth be used to speak angry words, words of passion, selfishness, hatred, who's 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 from that 14th chapter, the first verse:

“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.

They come from this earth, that's what the 4th verse, the last line says:

“...These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb” Revelation 14:4.

They come right here 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 somebody say, “I want you to accept me just for what I am? I want you to accept me as a person.” In other words, love me the way I am. And don't try to make me over the way you think I ought to be. There's 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's love, friends.

Let me illustrate. Suppose somebody brings in a chunk of ore here. Suppose I happen to be a chemist that knows how to deal with ore and metal. I look at the chunk of ore, I examine it and take some of it and test it. I say, "I'd like to take that ore and put it through the smelter. There's gold in there, precious gold, but there's a lot of dross also. Besides the dirt and stone that's in there, there're metals of lesser value—tin and so forth. I want to take that chunk of ore, and I want to get at the ledge from which it came. I want to get tons of that material. What do I want to do with it? I want to refine it.

But suppose that ore could speak and say, "No. If you are 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. Put these texts down: Malachi 2:2–4

"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..." Malachi 3:3–4.

Again, in Isaiah 1:25:

"...I will...purge away thy dross..." Isaiah 1:25.

Again Isaiah 13:12:

"I will make a man more precious than fine gold..."
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, "just accept me as a person" is a false Gospel. It's not in the Bible. And I ask again, why is that so? Because God is love.

Let me give you another illustration. Suppose I go to see the doctor and I have 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, you know what he'll do? He'll begin to find out what's making the pain. But suppose when he's made his test and 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've come here with just one purpose. I have a pain. I want you to give me something for it. And don't bother with my life, doctor. I'll live my own life. I want

you to accept me as a person, and give me something to stop the pain, and I'll pay you for it."

Do you want to be that kind of Doctor? Do you want to be that kind of patient? I hope not, friends. Will you even think of coming to the Great Physician, to Jesus Christ, and say, "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'm getting at, dear friends? You remember what I said a little while ago? Every person here has the potential to either be like that wild beast, or to be like the Lamb; to be like Jesus, the Lamb of God, to reflect His image fully, or else to bear the image of the satanic, the corrupt, the cruel, the hateful and hated. Oh, men and women, boys and girls, this is the road you and I are traveling. Let us put away all this idea that there is some class somewhere in the middle that is too good for hell, even if they're not good enough for Heaven. No, this is harvest time. Every plant is going to seed.

You remember when Jesus was hanging there on the cross, what was at his right hand? Another cross; somebody on it? Yes. Who was it? A thief. Over here at His left hand, what was there? 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. He went to his death thoroughly sealed in the likeness of the Satanic. But the other, thank God, as he beheld the Lamb of God, as he saw Jesus dying there, the Holy Spirit helped him to see that that Man who was dying in the middle was dying for him. He cried for mercy. Did he get it? Oh yes, friends. One went to his death lost; the other went to his death saved.

Listen. I said it awhile ago, and I want to repeat it: the worse sinner here, the man that has made the most mistakes, the woman that has fallen the lowest, the young person that has failed God over and over again, there's *hope* for you. You don't have to wind up like the wild beast. You don't have to end up with that 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, may I be honest with you; it'll 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 to try to help you, accept you as you are, and interfere with your life, not at all? Away with that so-called independence. May I tell you, friends, you may *think* that it shows independence—it reveals slavery.

Do you want me to prove that? Turn to Mark—something very interesting. Jesus came to preach deliverance to the captives. In the synagogue at 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 mad man 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 anybody to interfere with his lifestyle. Who was talking? The Devil was talking. But wonder of wonders, marvel of marvels, here was One who read the mind, who read the heart. And beneath that wild exterior, *Jesus* saw deep down in his soul that that man longed to be free.

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 free from that rebellious spirit.

Dear ones, young and old, you can be free. Jesus is in the business of freeing the prisoners. He freed this man. The next verse says:

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

If in your heart of hearts, deep down where no human being can see, you will say, “Lord, this is what I need. I need to be freed 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 freed. 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 onto your way, so surely you can be accepted and accepted *now* if you will yield your life to Him.

Let me tell you the best news I know tonight, it's 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're my little sheep. 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 finally, Thank God! I stand on Zion's hill with the Lamb reflecting the image of Jesus fully.”

But listen, 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.

Turn over to 1 John 3. I want you to read it for yourself. 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, 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 knows us not, because it knew Him not...” 1 John 3:1.

Now watch, what's the next word? Beloved. Is that what it says? Are you sure? What's that second word? Now. When is that? Right now at 8:00 pm 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, he doesn't vote in this election. God has chosen me, and I've chosen Him, and that settles it. I'm not even going to ask his permission. It's none of his business.

“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. And every man that hath this hope in Him purifies himself, even as He is pure” 1 John 3:2–3.

Do you see, friend? God counts you His child the moment you accept Him. And 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 bleep like a lamb.

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

Well no, I don't. But I want to tell how you treat them back will depend upon 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 is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opens not His mouth” Isaiah 53:7.

Oh friend, really, deep down in your heart, which do you want to be? Do you want to be like that lion, or do you want to be like the Lamb? Do you want to be like that 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 you something from a little book that I love called *Steps to Christ*; some of you know what a wonderful volume it is. I believe it's inspired; I know it is. On page 62, what I've read you here 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 62.

Will you say those last few words with me?

"...just as if you had not sinned" *Ibid*.

Now, what is it that's going to happen just as if you had not sinned? You're accepted by whom? By God. God accepts you just as if you had not sinned. You say, "But I have sinned." Sure you have. But you're to be accepted just as if you had not sinned. Can you get anything better than that? What does it depend upon? It depends upon your giving yourself to Him, sin and all, to be changed, transformed, made like Him. God is not going to testify to a lie. God's not going to call you a lamb when really you 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 dwelt, and He can make you into a temple of the living God. He can take that beast nature and quite it, and calm it, and change it, and make you a lamb, a lamb!

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 friend, the most wonderful thing is this—I can be like Him. I want to be, don't you?

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