

Messages from Revelation 14 of 16

Dragon and the Woman

#0475

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—December 14, 1973

It's a wonderful thing to be living in the last generation. God has put in His book a special message for earth's last hour. It's found in the book of Revelation 14:6. John sees the angel flying with:

“...the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice...”

Will you repeat with me what the angel says?

“...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 14:6–7.

This is Heaven's call to the judgment hour which began at the end of Daniel's 2300-year prophecy in 1844. This is court week in Heaven, and your case and mine will be examined at the supreme court of the universe. The standard of judgment is the law of God. We're called to worship the Creator, “Him that made heaven and the earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” There's a controversy over worship.

The second angel follows saying:

“...Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication” Revelation 14:8.

Babylon represents all the religions of this world, except the true religion. It's divided into three parts according to Revelation 16; we're going to see what those three parts are tonight. God in His Word, in this book of Revelation, has seen fit to put His finger on the great religions of this final hour that lead the world astray and lead the world as we saw last week to Armageddon.

The third angel follows saying:

“...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...”
Revelation 14:9–10.

The wine of God’s wrath is poured out in the seven last plagues, according to Revelation 15 and 16. But before God sends these plagues upon the earth, He first sends this three-fold message in order that all men may be warned, and those who wish may find refuge in God’s Ark today just as refuge was offered in the Ark that Noah built back before the flood.

You can see that in this third message, as in the first, the controversy is over worship. While the first angel says worship the Creator who made heaven and earth, Him that made heaven and earth, this angel warns in that ninth verse, that 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. You see, I repeat, the controversy is over worship. As I showed you last Friday night, we show who we worship by who we obey. And notice in this very last verse:

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that
keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”
Revelation 14:12.

Those who listen to this message will keep what? The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

It takes the faith of Jesus to keep the commandments of God. Nobody can keep God’s law without the faith of Jesus. He kept that law here in human flesh, and He wants to keep it today in human flesh—yours and mine. If we will accept Him, if we’ll have His faith, we can keep His law. Oh, that God may give us faith in Jesus!

If we do not yield our hearts and lives to Jesus and let Him put His faith in our hearts, we will be deceived and led astray by the beast and his image. We’ll receive his mark in our forehead or in our hands, and as the result, drink of the wine of the wrath of God.

You see, as a result of this three-fold message, all the world is divided into just two classes. It was so in Noah’s day. Those that went in the Ark were saved—all of them. Those who stayed out of the Ark were lost—all of them. So it will be today, as sure as God is true. This message is winging its flight all around this world, and every creature under heaven is destined to hear it. And everyone is making a decision either to obey God’s commandments through faith in Jesus or to go the other road, and they will eventually be led to worship the beast and his image and receive his mark.

Now you can see that in order for us to understand this message fully, we need to have crystal clear who the beast is, what the image is, and what his mark is. You can see that God wouldn’t bring people into judgment over this and leave it in some dark or nebulous place. He’s made this crystal clear. Tonight I want to study with you some of the things that make it absolutely clear and plain, what the beast is,

and what the mark is, so that we will know exactly what we are dealing with in this last battle of the Great Controversy.

This prophecy with which this message deals begins with Revelation 12:1. Here we have in the first few verses of Revelation 12 a great red dragon about to devour a man-child that's just to be born. Now, as you read that 12th chapter of Revelation, It's very clear that the man-child is Jesus Christ because it says this:

“...child was caught up unto God, and to His throne”
Revelation 12:5.

Who was it that tried to destroy Jesus as soon as He was born? Well of course, it was the Devil, he's behind all murder, and especially he was anxious to murder the Son of God when He was just a babe there in Bethlehem. But I want you to notice what power he used. There was one power ruling the world at that time. It was the power of Rome, represented by Caesar Augustus.

You remember in the story of the birth of Jesus there in Luke 2, the record begins with the statement: In those days, there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. Rome ruled the known world at that time, and it was in response to that decree that Joseph came with Mary to Bethlehem in order to be enrolled for the taxing. It was at that time that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Micah 5:2—Christ was born in Bethlehem.

The shepherds came to honor Him, and then later the wise men arrived from the East, bringing their gifts of gold frankincense and myrrh. As a part of the wise men's visit to Judea, King Herod heard about this baby that had been born down there in Bethlehem, and what did he tell those wise men? Bring me word when you find him so that I can do what? Did he want to worship Him? No, he wanted to murder Him. Who put that in his heart? Satan put it in his heart. Herod was there as the agent of Rome. He was responsible to Augustus Cesar, and it was Roman soldiers that went down there to Bethlehem and slew right and left. But God had protected His Son and given Joseph warning, and he'd taken Him away.

When Jesus grew to manhood and went into His ministry, three and a half years was all this world could stand Him. And again Satan manifested his hatred by causing Jesus to be arrested and brought before a Roman governor, Pontus Pilate.

The thing I'm working on right now is making it plain who this dragon power is. It's Rome, pagan Rome. It was Rome that sought to destroy Jesus as soon as He was born. It was Rome that finally caused His death. The Jewish leaders prevailed on Pilate to sign His death warrant, and the Roman soldiers crucified Him, and He was hung up between the heavens and the earth to die on a Roman cross.

But the prophecy doesn't leave Him there. In that wonderful statement there in Revelation 12, it says that the child was caught up to God and His throne. So

three days after His death, He rose from the tomb. And soon thereafter, went to Heaven there to represent us as our Great High Priest.

Satan, working through Rome, turned his attention to the church. And all during the early ages of Christianity, Rome persecuted the church, and there were thousands upon thousands of martyrs.

Now we come to something very interesting, Satan saw that the more he persecuted the church, the more it grew and spread. So he began to infiltrate the church of Christ with heathen ideas, worldly philosophies. And finally, in the church itself, the man of sin reared his head. This was all foretold in prophecy.

Turn now to Revelation 13; we read of the coming of another power represented by a leopard-like beast rising from the sea with seven heads and ten horns. Let us notice how the prophet describes it:

“...I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy” Revelation 13:1–2.

Notice that this power has crowns upon his horns. It's a monarchy form of government, both a church and state. Notice in the second verse that the beast is like a leopard and his feet like a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion. And watch this next point; the dragon gave him, this new beast, his power and his seat and great authority. This power then that we're dealing with, this leopard-like beast, gets his power and his authority, and his seat from whom? The dragon. The dragon we've seen and proved it from the Bible and history that that dragon power was pagan Rome that sought to destroy Christ.

But there comes a time when pagan Rome turns its power and its seat of government and authority over to a new power. And this is exactly what happened in Roman history. Where the Caesar had sat for centuries, the Bishop or Rome was enthroned. And the Pope became the central figure of authority in Europe for over a thousand years. So the papacy is represented in this Bible cartoon, this animal symbol, of the beast with seven heads and ten horns, and crowns upon his horns.

You notice that the dragon, that is Pagan Rome gave him, this new power, his power and seat and great authority. And right today, there in St. Peters in Rome, by the Tiber, the Pope sits enthroned. There, for over a thousand years in the Middle Ages from that seat of government Rome, the papacy, issued its edicts and sent forth its armies. Geographically, this power is located by the prophetic finger. The dragon—pagan Rome gave him his power and his seat and great authority. Rome it was prophesied to be, Rome it is, and the very name is inscribed—the Roman Catholic Church.

Now let me say, friends, I love all men; Jesus loves all men. He has true followers in every church. Jesus has true followers in the Roman Catholic Church. I

have personal friends and dear relatives, loved ones, in the Roman Catholic Church. I haven't a word to say against any man or any church. But I must declare the Word of God. And thank God, friend, this message is reaching people of every church, and people without any church, all over the world, and the true sheep are hearing the true Shepherd's voice and responding.

But as a minister of Christ, I must preach the Word. So we're simply tracing down the prophetic predictions and showing that in Roman history, the papacy took the place of the old Roman Caesars.

Now, you remember that we noticed that this power was a crowned power. The Bible specifically speaks of the cross. Here is the representation of the Pope's crown, a triple crown. It's interesting what the Catholic theologians say of this, quoting:

"Hence the Pope is crowned with a triple crown as king of heaven and earth and purgatory..."

What a claim. And this is in fulfillment.

"...there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months" Revelation 13:5.

A prophetic day is a literal year according to Ezekiel 4:6. Here was a prophecy that this power would continue for over a thousand years—1260 years to be exact. There is no other power in human history that has exerted such great authority and persecuted as this power has done for so long a time. Notice the prophecy that this would be a persecuting power:

"...it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations" Revelation 13:7.

For over a thousand years, this power used its authority and strength to persecute the people of God. So we simply read the record of history as given by Roman Catholic authority themselves. From a Catholic paper, the Western Watchman I read:

"The church has persecuted. Only a tyro in history will deny that. We have always defended the persecution of the Huguenots and the Spanish inquisition. When she thinks it good to use physical force, she..."

That is the church.

"...will use it."

The Roman power today, where it has the opportunity, uses that power in this way, and will again. According to prophecy, the deadly wound will be healed, and once again persecution will break. But as far as the Dark Ages are concerned, there was to come an end to that persecuting power. How long did we read there? Forty-two months, 1260 literal years. The power of the papacy was made certain by the decree of Justinian, the Roman emperor in the East in A. D. 533. And in A. D. 538 the anti-Catholic power was defeated in Rome, and the Bishop of Rome began his long rule.

Exactly 1260 years later, in February of 1798, Napoleon's general Berthier entered the city of Rome and took Pope Pious VI a prisoner, and carried him into exile where he died. For two years there was no Pope. And as one Jesuit writer said, "Half Europe thought that with the Pope, the papacy was dead." This was in precise fulfillment of Revelation 13, the culmination of this prophecy.

"He that leads into captivity shall go into captivity..."
Revelation 13:10.

So I bring you tonight these clear evidences that the dragon is the Biblical symbol for pagan Rome under the Caesar, and the Biblical evidence that the beast is papal Rome, under the Bishops. In each case, the geographical location is shown by the Word of God. And here we have this long period of rule clearly pointed out, and what it would do during that time, in speaking great words, in persecuting the people of God, and finally it was to go into captivity. It did right on time, right the very year, isn't this wonderful? So we know who the dragon is. It isn't some symbol of mystery. We know who the beast is. It's perfectly plain. And there are other evidences besides these few I'm giving tonight.

Now we come to this next very interesting prophecy. Passing down from the captivity of the Pope in 1798, right at that time, the prophet looks in another direction away from the seas which represent peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. He sees another beast coming up.

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth;
and he had two horns like a lamb..." Revelation 13:11.

This power is not like a dragon. It's not like a leopard. It's not like a lion. It's not like a bear. It's like a what? It's like a lamb. And notice, that other beast; what did it have on its horns? Crowns. But this one—no crowns. That other one came up out of the sea. Revelation 17:15 says the sea represents people and multitudes and nations and tongues. The earth, in contrast, would represent a new continent hitherto unoccupied. May I ask friends, what nation in 1798 was just coming up in new territory with no crowns, what is she? The United States of America. Indeed there is only one answer. There's only one answer.

Isn't it marvelous the precision of the prophetic forecast? The time, the place, the form of government all represented in this most interesting symbol. And it is a fact as we look on the pages of history that God raised up this nation to be a place of

refuge for the persecuted and oppressed of Europe. Why did the Pilgrims leave Europe and come over to this land? To find a place where they might worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences. Here in the wilderness, they carved out homes for themselves and churches where they could worship God.

It's a wonderful thing to have enough love for God to brave the rigors of pioneer life to go out and establish a new place, what do you say? This is one of the great reasons that this country was settled. Colony after colony was settled by people who were fleeing from the persecution of old Europe. And finally, in 1776, our founding fathers there in Philadelphia wrote that immortal document, the declaration of independence, and the old liberty bell rang out the glad news that here was a free nation, a place where the oppressed might come. And on that bell were the words from the Bible, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." What a wonderful history America has had. Isn't marvelous to know that this nation was clearly pictured in the book of God nearly 2,000 years before it came upon the stage of action?

But that same prophecy which traces the early history of our nation, and presents it like a lamb, it says it finally speaks as a dragon. A lamb speaking like a dragon? What a change of character. But this is exactly what the prophecy foretells. And finally, just as back there in old Rome there was persecution against the people of God, just as when church and state were united in the days of the papal rule in Europe and millions of martyrs were put to death, so today the prophecy of Revelation 13 foretells a rain of persecution here in the United States. So it is written:

"...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.

Here is this mark of the beast that the third angel warns us against. Here is the coming crisis in this country. Now, people today think they have a great crisis because of the oil shortage and the energy situation or because of the political graft and corruption in high places. All these things are indeed problems. But what will it be when in this fair land persecution rears its head, and the iron hand is reached out to try to force men to worship contrary to the law of God?

Somebody says, "Oh, that couldn't be in America."

Friends, listen: everything in the prophecy so far has come to pass, hasn't it? And this is coming. God is sending this message today as He did to Nineveh. And if this nation would repent, nationwide, as Nineveh did, God would spare this nation as He spared Nineveh. God would love to. But as back in the days of Noah, nearly all rejected that message, nearly all are in the process of rejecting it today, but you don't have to reject it.

You don't have to receive that mark in your right hand or in your forehead. You don't have to join in breaking the law of God. You can join with Jesus Christ in obedience.

I want you to think of what it means to be able to stand up for truth when all the world is against you when the religious leaders of the world are against you when the governments of the world are against you. But thank God, the Captain of our salvation has led the way.

Think with me about the experiences that our Lord went through. Think of that night in Gethsemane where the mob, Roman soldiers, and dignitaries of the church, and the rabble all joined to bind the Savior and lead Him away to the judgment hall. Think of Him as He stood there before His judges in conscious innocence, yet accused of crimes—bound, beaten, abused, lied about, and no opportunity for justice. Will there be some people today that follow the Lamb wherever He goes? Will there be some people today who are willing to stand for truth as Jesus did?

Notice that the dignitaries of church and state combined to heap scorn upon Him and persecute Him. He was led from the tribunal of the church to Pilate's judgment hall. There He was turned over to the soldiers to be beaten, cruelly flogged. Then the soldiers gathered, put upon Him an old robe, mocked Him, bowing before Him, planted a crown of thorns on His head. They struck Him with a reed, driving the thorns down into His brow. Jesus was a martyr. But He was far more than a martyr. He was your substitute. The Bible prophecy of Isaiah 53 says:

“...He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him...”

That means He took my whipping, that flogging, that caused the blood to run down His back, that's what I deserve, but He took it for me.

“...and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all”
Isaiah 53:5–6.

Yes, our sins were put on Him. But I want to tell you something, the only way His bearing my sin can help me is for me to give up the sin so He can take it away from me. That's what He died to make it possible. He was manifested to take away our sins, and sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4–5). This is the great controversy through these 6,000 years since the rebellion began in Heaven; loyalty and obedience on one side, and disobedience and rebellion on the other.

Jesus took my place and was treated as I deserved so that I could be treated as He deserved. Finally, they led Him out to Calvary, and there they nailed Him to the cross. Those cruel spikes were driven through His hands and feet. The Roman

soldiers and Jewish priests combined to heap contempt upon Him. What a sight for Heaven to behold—this world crucifying its Creator; church and state joining together to murder the Son of God. This is what's going to happen again. I've introduced it tonight, I'll tell you more about it next Friday night.

Oh, that every heart here might understand this: the only way you could keep from joining in the persecution is to be willing to be persecuted. Unless you have enough love for Jesus to be willing to endure ostracism, ridicule, pressure, boycott, imprisonment, and threatened death, you will be led by those mass pressures to join with the mob that tries to slay the saints of God.

Don't think you won't. Every soul here tonight is going to take more than some human resolution. We've got to have an experience of love such as Jesus had. What did He pray as those men nailed Him to the cross? "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Jesus is testing you and me now with little crosses. From day to day, we have our tests and trials and temptations. Oh, that God may give us the faith of Jesus to endure all things. What do you say?

They hung Him up between the heavens and the earth to die. The sky gathered blackness. And finally there burst from His lips a cry of anguish. From the sixth hour, there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. At about the ninth hour, Jesus cried. Can you hear that cry? He cried with a loud voice saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say: "My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

He was bearing my cross. He was suffering my death. He was taking my place. He, the sin-bearer was giving His life; forsaken of men and of God, He laid down His life as a sacrifice for me. Isn't that wonderful love?

Tonight I want to stand by that cross as John did and look up into His face and think of the love He bears for me as He dies for me. Tonight, I want to look up into that face and have the fun of sin spoiled, and the lure of sin taken away. I want to look at that cross until everything in this world fades out of sight compared with the glory of Christ's love.

In that early church, as men heard the story of the crucified One who had died for them and had risen and gone to Heaven, thank God, a holy zeal was born that caused thousands upon thousands of them to give their lives as witnesses. Think of the multitudes who gave their lives in the Coliseum at Rome—tortured, thrown to the lions, crucified, and killed in other ways to make sport for Roman holidays. But the blood of the martyrs, as the historian says, was the seed of the church. Every time somebody gave his life for Christ, others sprang up to take his place.

Peter was crucified, Paul was beheaded, and thousands of others were killed. Was it worth it? They said so. Thank God, there're going to be men and women today, and young people that will be willing to give their lives for Jesus.

Will you be one of them? If He isn't worth dying for, He's not worth living for. But if He is worth dying for, He is worth living for. What do you say?

I think of that woman that was called before the Roman governor in the early ages, and given her choice of sprinkling a few grains of incense on the altar of the heathen idol, or else being killed. There she stands. There is her lover pleading with her to give in. There sits the judge. There's the altar. All she has to do is sprinkle a few grains of incense before that heathen idol, and she can be released.

But no, she looks away from it all. She sees the unseen. She endures as beholding the invisible. Christ has given His life for her, and she will give her life for Him.

Oh friends, as I think of what petty things cause us to stumble, as I think of what little things cause people to lose faith in Jesus, or complain. Somebody doesn't speak to them, or somebody does speak to them. Either way, they may get offended. Isn't it a shame?

Oh, that God may imbue us with the spirit of the martyrs, that He may fill our hearts with the love for Jesus, that we'll endure a little of what He endured. What do you say? How many of us would like to send Him the word tonight that we're will to go all the way? May I see your hands?

[Closing song and appeal]

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