

Revelation 20-06-18b

Let's continue our study now, and I want to review another thing that we've seen in recent weeks. First of all, we, and I apologize if it sounds like a hash when I go over it quickly, but there really is a fairly, in my view at least, a fairly simple structure to the Book of Revelation. It is a seven-year period, and there are seven phases in almost any perspective from which you view it.

If you look at it from the earthly perspective, it's seals. If you look at it, angels have been learning from God and His interaction with people on this planet from the very beginning, from the time it was created. They sang for joy, according to Job, and they've been watching and learning.

And so in the trumpet phase, you see that, and then the being poured from the highest elevation, which is heaven itself, and you have the heavenly perspective on the judgment of evil in the earth. And then interleaved with these, we have these scenes that pull out and emphasize specific themes and specific aspects of God's dealing with men that are applicable to every age and every time, but are distilled and brought to this great apex or emphatic conclusion in that last seven years. But we always end up thinking, well, where am I in the plan of God? Is Jesus coming back soon? We saw that this year is a really significant year if you're keeping track, because God has used the feast schedule of Israel and the calendar of Israel to time important events.

So you have the birth of the Lord Jesus, there's the former and latter reigns, and He was born at the time of the former reigns. And when He comes back, it's going to be the time of the latter reigns. You have the Passover, which is the first of the spring feasts, followed by first fruits and the feast of unleavened bread, and then Pentecost, those first four spring feasts, all of the things that happen around Jesus' first coming are associated with those feasts.

And we expect, well, in His second coming, it will probably be the fall feasts, which begin with Rosh Hashanah, the head of the year, and then 10 days later, the day of atonement, followed a few days later by the feast of tabernacles, God dwelling with men. And this is when Jesus is going to be on the earth administering the kingdom of His father David. He and His sons, David and his sons will be sitting on the throne.

The Lord Jesus will be sitting on the throne. Very interesting time, because it's the fulfillment. Why is the millennial Israel ruled by David and his sons and his greatest son, the Lord Jesus? Because it is the literal fulfillment of God's promises to Old Testament Israel.

They are the earthly people, so their signs and signals are earthly. When you look at Matthew chapter 24, we'll be seeing it a couple of months hence in our Sunday morning study, Jesus is talking to the people of His day, and Jesus, during His lifetime, was still living in the Old Testament age, living in the age of the law and pre-Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is not yet given because Christ is not yet glorified.

It's the Old Testament age, and that clock is running. But when you get to chapter 24, and Jesus is asked, when will these things be? Jesus looks and says, there won't be two of these stones of the temple, one on top of the other. And they said, well, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age? Jesus said, be really careful that you're not fooled.

Let no one deceive you. It's going to be easy to get fooled. Many will come in My name saying, I am the Christ.

And there's two ways to take that. Is the speaker, hello there, I'm talking to you, and I'm the Christ. I just want you to know, I'm the Christ.

Is that what they're saying? Or do many come in Jesus' name saying, Jesus is the Christ. That's how I understand this. They get their foot in the door, and they get the defenses down.

And you can think of some modern day outlying denominations and even cults who will come to your door and affirm that Jesus is the Christ. And they'll come in His name. They've got His name on their church or their belief system.

In some cases, they've translated their own Bible and so on. But Jesus said, watch out in the last days. Many will come in My name saying, I am the Christ.

And yet they're going to deceive many. Oh, well, I believe Jesus is the Christ. You believe Jesus.

Tell me more. And you wind up getting led down a path. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars.

See that you are not troubled. All these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. Nation will rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom.

And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Notice earthquakes, plural, not the great earthquake.

Not the earthquake, the great earthquake. Right? These are smaller ones, but it's not yet. These are the beginning of sorrows.

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you. And you will be hated by all nations for My namesake. He is talking about the latter half of the 70th week.

What will be the signs of your coming and the end of the age, the age of Israel. The last seven years, that's the end of the age. These are physical signs because Israel is the physical people of God.

Famines, pestilences, earthquakes, martyrdoms, nation against nation, kingdom against

kingdom. Israel is the physical people of God. The ritual system given to them in the law of Moses is physical.

You're going to bring a goat or a lamb or an ox. You're going to dress a certain way. You're going to eat a certain way.

You're going to be a visible material presence representing the God of Israel. I'm going to be an invisible glory in the holy of holies in the tabernacle. You will come and go.

You will worship. You will be a sign to the nations that I am God, the physical people, the earthly people. By the way, I'm a little bit peeved in all respect to Dr. Walvord who I mentioned in the first session, but he was part of the committee that put together the new Schofield reference Bible.

The old Schofield, the thundering King James old Schofield had notes that made this point. Dr. Schofield talked about Israel as the earthly people of God, the church as the heavenly, the spiritual people of God. And they watered that down and reworded it in the new.

Many of the notes in the new Schofield are great. I need both. I have my grandmother's old Schofield and I've got my new Schofield and I'll refer to them both when I'm checking these notes.

But they watered that down because it seemed anti-Semitic to say, well, you're earthly and we're spiritual and heavenly. And if someone took it that way, they're missing a blessing because it's a key to understanding the scriptures. When God is dealing with Israel, there's going to be sign miracles.

In order that you understand that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins, I'm going to get this crippled guy to walk. I will show you with visible material signs, spiritual truth. That's what Israel does.

We, the body of Christ, the church, are a spiritual people, a heavenly priesthood, not a Levitical priesthood, a Melchizedekian priesthood. What do you know about the rituals of the Melchizedekian priesthood? Melchizedek was a high priest. Abraham came.

And what's the only thing you know about Melchizedek? Bread and wine. Shared with Abraham, bread and wine. What is one of the signature elements that the church identifies with ever since Jesus, the night before he was crucified, took bread and broke it, took the cup and handed it to his disciples? Bread and wine.

It goes all the way back to Melchizedek. But he's a spiritual priest. Paul, I think, argues in Hebrews that Jesus is a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

And this is the church age. We are spiritual. So I say all that to say this.

Looking for signs of the end, would you be looking for physical famines, wars, rumors of wars,

pestilences, earthquakes in various places? Those are signs to Israel, earthly signs for earthly people. Our signs are spiritual. And I don't have time to turn there, but you remember in Thessalonians, in a couple of places, the apostle Paul says, take heed because in the latter days there will be, men will be what? Lovers of self, lovers of money.

These are spiritual conditions. Go down the list. He doesn't say, and oh, by the way, there's going to be earthquakes, famines, pestilences.

You'll know that the end for the church is near. It's all spiritual. It's all, what is our heart condition? What is our fellowship condition? What is our unity condition? What is our fidelity to the truth of the word of God and to Christ himself? Where does that stand? There's this huge abandonment.

And that's what we see when we look at the scarlet harlot in Revelation. When God says, come out of her, my people, all that's left, which is a substantially the same harlot, we are embedded and almost invisible within false religion. It's so interesting.

But this brings us now to the three women I spoke of at the end of the first session in the book of Revelation. The first one you have in chapter 12, the woman, the child and the dragon. And to sort of try to vindicate my suggestion that we're not really depending on time so much as maybe just sequence.

You will remember in chapter 12, a great sign appeared in heaven. A woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet on her head, a garland of 12 stars. As soon as you see 12, Israel, 12 tribes, 12 stars.

And by the way, sun, moon and stars, didn't somebody have a dream about this and share it with his brothers and get kicked into slavery in Egypt as a result? Jacob's sons, time of Jacob's trouble. So being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. Now we know who this child is.

This is child capital C, right? But that doesn't happen during the 70th week. We have stepped back and we're, we're looking at Israel as an entirety. And this is one of the signature features.

Paul is going to make this argument when you go to Romans nine, 10 and 11, he says, look, Israel has been God's chosen vessel for communication for these many centuries. So don't come down on Israel. God's had to break their branches out for unbelief, uh, for faithlessness, but, uh, don't boast against those branches because through faith, you got grafted into the tree by faith and God can graft those Israel branches back into the tree when they start expressing faith.

So being with child, this is verse two of chapter 12 being with child. She cries out in labor and in pain to give birth. Another sign appeared in heaven.

Behold a great fiery red dragon having seven heads and 10 horns. This is eerily similar to what the scarlet harlot mystery Babylon. The great is writing on, isn't it fiery red dragon having seven

heads and 10 horns and seven diadems on his heads.

His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth to devour her child. As soon as it was born notice, he has come out of heaven.

He's drawn a third of the stars, which we understand to be angels down to earth. And he is on the earth prepared to oppose the child and devour him as soon as he's born. Why is there unparalleled, unprecedented, unheard of demonic activity in the days of the Lord Jesus? He literally casts out legions of demons.

Yet the old Testament knows practically nothing of demons. Elijah, Elisha, you don't find the old Testament prophets manifesting their credentials in delivering God's word by casting out demons. It's just this, this is why.

Satan comes down, takes a third of the stars with him to become his fallen angels. And together they seek to nip this thing in the bud. When the child is born, we're going to devour him.

And this is going to thwart the plan of God. And Satan has, has kind of a blindness due to pride that he ought to know that this isn't going to work, but he doesn't. In the same way, I was telling Scott during the break, my view is that a lot of people right now don't understand basic logical thinking.

There is a logical principle that says correlation does not equal causation. Years ago when I was a teenager, I was sitting waiting to get a filling or something. I read in a magazine, it said, people who drink orange juice are seven times less likely to have cavities.

A, I'm in a dentist's office getting a cavity filled and I drink orange juice by the gallon. And B, orange juice is full of sugar. What, vitamin C, how does this work? Well, come to find out people who drank Florida orange juice were also healthy in many other habits.

And so they were meticulous about flossing and brushing and they, they worked out and they ate well. And, and orange juice was just part of a much larger, healthy diet. The orange juice wasn't giving them healthier teeth.

It's a correlation. It's not a causation. In fact, it's kind of in spite of instead of because of.

Well, if you have an individual of one race who is somehow assaulted or insulted or otherwise done despot by somebody of another race, that is a condition, but is it a correlation or a causation? Was this insult inflicted or this harm done because of race, or is it merely something that accompanies it? Is it a cause and effect or is it just a mere accompanying detail? It's important to analyze these things, to think logically. So Satan shares his blindness in the same way that Christ shares his light. And if you follow in the footsteps of Satan, there is a blindness to

truth that ought to be obvious.

And if we have difficulty grasping the truth and having it come alive in our lives, we want to look to see if there is an impediment where in some way we're, we're following this pattern of thinking that can blind the smartest creature God ever made. I used to wonder when I was younger, well, if he's so smart, how come he's can't read the Bible and know he's going to be defeated and just give up now and, you know, try to make peace, let's, let's go to the bargaining table. He's, he's blinded and all of his intelligence, all of his wisdom is for naught because of this inability to, it takes humility to be willing to consider these things that are in his blind spot.

So his tale draws the third of the stars and he's waiting to devour the child as soon as it's born. Verse five, chapter 12 in revelation, she bore a male child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. It's very interesting.

You know, John, uh, and James, sons of Zebedee up there in the Galilee. And, uh, they weren't around when Jesus was born, but John gets to see Jesus be born right here. He's, he's out of time.

He and Israel and notice how the woman variously represents all Israel and then becomes Mary for a short time. And then she's going to return to being Israel again. She stands for multiple things.

This is hugely important. Let me say it again. This woman occasionally boils down to a single entity.

Mary giving the whole nation didn't give birth to Jesus. Mary gave birth to Jesus, right? But this woman represents Israel with the 12 stars in her crown. This is not the Catholic Virgin Mary.

This is Israel. But Israel, the point of the spear in Israel at the point of the birth of Jesus is Mary. So, uh, she bore a male child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron already at his birth.

You see Jesus in the millennial kingdom. That's where he's going to have the rod of iron. And you're, we're just out of time.

We're up above time looking down from, from that heavenly perspective. So the male, how do you know a male child is going to rule all nations with a rod of iron unless you're sharing God's perspective and Oh, the millennium over here in, in, uh, you know, revelation chapter 20 is happening, just described in the literally the same breath with the birth of Christ. Her child was caught up to God and his throne.

Well, there's a quick 33 years he's born and he's caught up to God and the throne because we're, we're getting this overview and sequence and time and proportion are not, uh, what counts. So then the woman fled into the wilderness. Now she's not Mary anymore.

She's back to Israel and she's Israel in the time of trouble. She flees into the wilderness where she has a place prepared by God that they should feed her there. 1,260 days.

This is the same as three and a half years. This is the same as 42 months. It's the last half, the 70th week, seven years long.

It's the last half that is the tribulation, the great tribulation. Then verse seven, war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought with the dragon and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

Previous to this battle, there is a place in heaven for the dragon and his angels. Read Job chapter one and chapter two, sons of God come for a council and Satan is among them and God has a conversation with him. He doesn't live there full time anymore, but he still has a visitor's pass.

He can still come. But at this point where the woman is sent to the wilderness, when you see the abomination of desolation, flee to the wilderness, Jesus said. She's going to flee to the wilderness because this is not just Israel.

This is faithful, obedient Israel. Those who are not faithful and obedient to the words of Christ will be slain or will be co-opted with the mark of the beast and all the rest of it. They've got to know their scriptures.

They've got to act when they see the abomination and literally head for the hills. At that point, war breaks out in heaven. Michael and his angels fight with the dragon and his angels and they do not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

So the great dragon was cast out. That serpent of old called the devil and Satan who deceives the whole world. He was cast to the earth and his angels were cast out with him.

This isn't before Genesis. This is not before Adam and Eve. This is in the middle of the tribulation.

That's why the last half is so calamitous. I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, now salvation and strength and the kingdom of our God and the power of his Christ have come for the accuser of our brethren who accused them before our God day and night has been cast down. He is still up there accusing day and night.

He's accusing you right now. He's accusing me right now day and night. Satan is in heaven accusing and he's going to continue to accuse the people of God all the way up to the middle of the 70th week.

Then he's going to be kicked out and his limitation and his cornering. This is what any general does. You want to get the enemy to fight on the ground of your choosing.

You want the tactical and strategic advantages of using the terrain. So God is going to say, I don't want you up here, you know, using some kind of spy intelligence or something to find out what's happening when these thunders go off or the rest. You no longer have access to heaven and the judgments of God that are going to be dispensed are going to be a surprise to you because you no longer have access to the place where they are sourced, where the Lord Jesus breaks the seals and God's angels blow the trumpets and pour out his bowls.

So for that last half in judgment, Satan, because he is blind, is going to be blinded. The God of this world blinds the minds of those that believe not. He's going to be blinded.

He's not going to know the sequence and the commands that are being issued in heaven any longer. He knows them now, but he won't then. It has been cast down, verse 11 of chapter 12.

They overcame him by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony and they did not love their lives to the death. It doesn't necessarily mean that we are going to lose our lives automatically, but you have the attitude, whatever it takes, however God wants to use me. If he can glorify himself by my living, great.

If he can glorify himself in my suffering and death, great. This is the mind that was in Christ Jesus in Philippians 2. And therefore, verse 12, rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and sea.

Notice, Satan's out of heaven. If you're in the heavenly realms, that's where we will be. Thank the Lord.

Rejoice. If you're still down on the earth, watch out. The devil has come down to you having great wrath because he knows that he has only a short time.

So when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the child. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness to her place where she is nourished for a time, times, and half a time, 1260 days, 42 months, three and a half years, all talking about that latter half of the seven years. So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood for the woman that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.

But the earth helped the woman and the earth opened up its mouth and swallowed up the flood, which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. This is a short summary of the seals, trumpets, and bowls. What God does to the earth is going to confute, confound, and paralyze Satan's strategy to destroy Israel and basically take over the planet.

The dragon was enraged with the woman and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. That's why they're in the wilderness. They keep the commands and they have the testimony.

Notice these are Old Testament saints with a New Testament witness. They have the testimony of Jesus Christ. His name was not known in the Old Testament like it is in the New.

And so that's happening there. The reason I review this primarily is you see how this woman doesn't represent one thing. We're scientific.

We're algebraic. I want X to be one number and only one. When I'm doing my simultaneous equations or I'm solving for the unknown, X needs to be a finite thing.

And we think in very, I want precision. I want this word to mean the same thing all the time. I want to use the when it's supposed to be used.

I want to use the when it's supposed to be used. I want to be accurate. Well, in God's great flexibility, sometimes it's one thing and sometimes it's another.

And so when you get to the second of the three women, I held up three fingers and said second. The second of the three women over in Revelation chapter 17, one of the seven angels who had the seven bulls came and talked with me saying, come I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters. The angel is going to explain that these many waters are the kingdoms of the earth, nations and peoples.

And, you know, the wicked are like the troubled sea when it cannot rest. It's often used to talk about the roiling of the nations. With whom, verse two, the kings of the earth committed fornication and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

It's real interesting because when you want to figure out what does this Babylon mystery, mystery colon Babylon the great, what does she stand for? One thing, you know, right at this point is she's not a political entity. Babylon was the capital of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian empire, right? And you think, well, she must be some kind of an empire or some kind of a king or some sort of a Nebuchadnezzar figure, but she's in bed with the kings of the earth. She sits on top of the nations.

So she's not of the nations and she's not of the kings. She's a different kind of entity. And as we've seen over the past few weeks, this is religion, religion in general, not with a view to how valid is it? How right is it? How biblical is it? This is religion.

You know, the old social rule, I don't know if anybody's even heard it in these days, but used to be when you, when you were going to get together, there were two things that were kind of off limits. We don't talk about politics and we don't talk about religion because they tend to spark controversy and unkindness in debate and so on. And so you can talk about sports, you can talk about events, you can talk about a lot of things, but you know, in gentlemanly circles and gentle womanly circles, politics and religion, you just don't bring those up because there can be more heat than light.

Well, politics, this is nations and national governmental issues, religion. This is what do you believe? What are your motives? What are your thoughts about life and the afterlife, if any? And what do you think controls outcomes? And what do you serve? What do you worship? What do you look to? What do you rely on for guidance, understanding to base your decisions on? That's religion. Science can be a religion.

I'm going to do the scientific thing here. Philosophy can be religion and of course, religions in general. So this is because it is distinguished from and separate from kingdoms and the nations.

It's not politics or national power. And the only thing left that wields such power is religion. And you can think of it down through the ages.

In the ancient world, you could get kings to bow by the priest or prophet of a religion coming out and well, Dagon says, or Aphrodite says, or Zeus says, or Jupiter says, or any one of these, they've always, religion has wielded power even over kings, threatening them with loss of the afterlife. If you watch any of these costume dramas they have where, you know, the priest in the Catholic church and all of their interminglings in European history, it's amazing the sway and the influence that in those days, the Catholic church. But this woman, remember now, this is the second of three women.

And she, in some cases, looks an awful lot like the Roman Catholic church of the middle ages with abuses and martyrdoms and persecutions. In other cases, she looks like a false professing modern Christianity. And is she, well, is she the Catholics or is she the Protestants? Is she just one religion or is she many? Is she unbiblical religions or only biblical? And the answer to those questions is yes.

Yes. Just like, is the woman Mary? Is the woman the tribe of Judah? Is the woman the nation of Israel back in those earlier chapters? Yes. She's all those things.

And she's the tribulation saints who are going to go to the wilderness. She's all of those things. It's, this is the way God's, that's why God's thoughts are higher than our thoughts and his ways are higher than our ways because, and we're just, we're just grabbing an edge of the carousel here and trying to hang on as it, as it views God's plan and purpose.

So he carried me away. This is 17 three, carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness. Now I thought John was already up here looking at all these things from a heavenly perspective, but he's carried away in the spirit into the wilderness and sees this woman sitting on a scarlet beast full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and 10 horns.

The interesting thing is the beast that was after the Israel woman had seven heads and 10 horns and he's the dragon. He's Satan himself. But the, this beast is going to be explained as a separate entity and he's given power by the dragon.

And we'll see that here in a couple of verses. But this beast is something new in the earth. The woman is arrayed in purple scarlet adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls having in her hand, a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication on her forehead.

A name is written mystery. And this is sobering because that's what the church is in this age. Paul was the, the apostle revealing the mystery Christ in you, the hope of glory.

That's the mystery Christ in you, the body of Christ, the mystery. This one has a label. This is like, this is like, you know, want to buy a watch and it says it's got a famous make brand on it, Rolex, but it only superficially looks like a Rolex.

It's really not well mystery. I am the representative of God on earth. However you understand God, I am the broker.

I, you know, come to me. So she's mystery Babylon, the great, the mother of harlots, mother of the abominations of the earth abominations. This is somewhat of a specific reference.

What is an abomination? Where do we first encounter the word abomination? It's used in the law of Moses to describe the things that are heinously unacceptable to God. You will stone someone who does this. You will purge them, put them outside the camp because this is an abomination to the Lord your God.

It has a righteousness failure intrinsic to its definition. It is the opposite of God's righteousness. It is the opposite of what is acceptable to God.

So when it says here that her golden cup is full of abominations, these are offenses in what should be proper religion. What should be actual approach to God and fellowship with God. These are abominable substitutes, alternatives, deceptive ploys, and, and they are abominations in that specific sense.

So she's got this name. Uh, her cup is full of abominations and her cap has a label on it. And it says mother of harlots and the abominations of the earth.

I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement. The angel said, why are you marveling? I'll tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has seven heads and 10 horns.

The beast you saw was and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. This is talking about Satan who was, and then he is not, he gets chained in the pit for a thousand years. Then he comes back at the end of the thousand years, revelation chapter 20 and draws like a magnet, all the iron filings of those who've been chafing and abrading under the rule of the Lord Jesus and David and his sons.

And there's this huge and growing number of unbelievers that crop up. These are the tears amongst the wheat. And Jesus' parable says, let them grow together until the time of the end.

Otherwise you'll root up the wheat. And that in my view is a description of the millennium. And it isn't.

Why does God keep Satan on ice and then release him? Because he is the one that is going to make the tears identifiable and they're going to flock to him, surround the camp of the saints. Fire's going to come out from God. That's what happens to the tears.

And so that's the description of Satan. He's the one that has chained. He's the one that has released.

God uses him to accomplish God's own purpose. God doesn't have to go through and have a long interrogation to figure out who's a believer and who's not. The sheep and goats judgment, your life is your witness.

How have you treated the least of these, my brethren? You've done it to me. And it's not so much a matter of faith because Jesus is visible. It's a matter of practice.

So this one that came out of the bottomless pit and is going to perdition is Satan. Those who dwell on the earth. I'm in verse eight.

Those who dwell on the earth will marvel whose names are not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world when they see the beast that was and is not and yet is. Here's the mind which has wisdom, seven heads or seven mountains on which the woman sits. Now, because she has in her cup the blood of the martyrs of Jesus, this helps us define what false religions we're talking about.

You have a lot of ancient religions, but she has martyred people who believe in Jesus specifically. Her cup is full of the blood of the saints and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. So this woman really appears and begins and takes shape at this, at the point of Jesus.

First advent is going to glory. And so you begin to see the Catholic church and the seven hills. Everybody knew in John's day that Rome was founded on seven hills.

And this is going to be where Roman Catholicism is going to get its start in the Latin church is going to be this woman for a time, but just like the woman in 12, not always, it's not exclusively or only the Catholic church, but she's going to be a very cogent representative of it. There are also seven Kings, five have fallen. One is the other is not yet come.

When he comes, he must continue a short time. This eighth King is the antichrist, the beast that was and is not, and is himself also the eighth and is of the seven and is going to perdition. The 10 horns, which you saw are 10 Kings receive no kingdom as yet.

They receive authority for one hour as Kings with the beast. Once again, beast is political national power. You've got Kings and so on controlled, ridden by this false religion woman.

And she's going to, this is like, uh, uh, you know, uh, riding bulls. How many seconds can you stay on top before you get tossed? And so they're of one mind and they will give their power and authority to the beast. They'll make war with the lamb and the lamb will overcome them for he is Lord of Lords and King of Kings revelation 19.

That's the name on his thigh when he comes back. So look at how we've once again, spanned across to the end of this period and they're making war with the lamb. This is the great final Armageddon conflict when Jesus comes down and ends that war.

So we've, we've gone from the beginning where they have power with the beast for one hour. Well, the one hour is the last three and a half years of the tribulation. And now Christ has come and overcome them.

Uh, and those who are with him are called chosen and faithful. Hopefully that's us when he comes with the armies of heaven and white robes. If they're armies of heaven, I'm hoping and thinking that's us.

We've been up there suiting up the judgment seat of Christ being sorted according to our faithfulness and our obedience. And the white robe throngs are the ones that are going to return with the Lord Jesus because they are called chosen and faithful chosen for service because they've demonstrated service to him who has more will be given. You've used your five talents, earned five more.

You're going to have future opportunity. He said, the waters, which you saw where the harlot sits are people's multitudes, nations and tongues, 10 horns on the beast. These will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire for God has put it into their hearts to fulfill his purpose, to be of one mind and to give their kingdom to the beast until the words of God are fulfilled.

Now this gives us the timing. This woman is knocked off and destroyed at the halfway mark. And this explains something.

This is my last point tonight. This woman getting knocked off and destroyed and trampled by this beast with the heads and the horns, these Kings, these nations, they want to throw in with the antichrist up to this point. And through the first half of the tribulation period, they have been controlled by this false religion.

And if you skip down to chapter 18, verse four, I heard another voice from heaven saying, because in the first four verses, he says, Babylon, the greatest fallen has become a dwelling place of demons, prison for foul spirits, a cage for unclean and hated birds. All nations have

drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. The Kings of the earth that committed fornication with her merchants of the earth that become rich through the abundance of her luxury.

I heard another voice from heaven saying, come out of her, my people. Yes. What? The people of God are in the scarlet harlot.

They are somehow in Babylon, the great, the mother of harlots. It's like the reverse of the wheat and the tares where the people of God are scattered in this largely evil entity. And that's why the voice comes saying, come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, lest you receive of her plagues.

So in my view, and it's only a suggestion, I think that that this is kind of like they usually say, well, revelation four one, that's the rapture. Come up here and I'll show you what happens after. But in this sweeping back and forth across time, you see the birth of Christ.

You see the ascension of Christ. You see so many different things. I think this, as God prepares to judge the harlot and he says, come out of her, my people, that's you, that's we, that's us.

And we are taken out. You know, that day will not come, Paul says, unless it comes first, the great apostasia stasis means to stand and opera is away. We're going to stand away.

We're going to come out of her. My people, we come out. She's going to prevail as the true unfettered, unhindered scarlet harlot for three and a half years.

She is going to there. The kings of the earth are going to hate her and destroy her as a part of God's judgment. That is the point at which you have the unholy Trinity.

Did you ever notice in the book of revelation that worship of the beast begins at that halfway mark, getting the mark of the beast and having the false prophet demand worship doesn't happen in the days of the scarlet harlot because she's controlling worship until she is destroyed. Then there is a one world religion that has nothing to do with the precedent set by any of its previous incarnations. It is destroyed halfway through.

And there is one religion and it's beast religion implemented by the false prophet upon pain of death. You can't buy and sell. And if you don't get the mark, you're done.

So they say, we recognize how well religion works in controlling political power. So we're going to unify them. We're going to have the religion and the power.

And so this woman is destroyed right at the same time that Satan is cast out of heaven and comes to earth and knows that he has but a short time. And so not being in heaven anymore to rail against the saints, he's going to come down here and perpetrate this false religion. He's going to have himself worshiped.

And when you read this and see the beast with seven heads and 10 horns, in some cases, it's Satan. In other cases, it's the antichrist. If you've seen the antichrist, you've seen Satan in the same way.

Jesus said, if you've seen me, you've seen the father. I am the fullness of deity in bodily form. The antichrist is the fullness of Satan in bodily form.

And he also is a beast with seven heads and 10 horns. And, but at that point to distinguish him, John switches over and says that that beast, the antichrist beast is given power by the dragon that had the tail. But he's, he's the false Christ, the antichrist.

So that is the second woman. And the scary thing is, you know how this woman has more from being the nation of Israel to being Mary herself that had the crown of 12 stars, this woman who sits on many waters and the kings of the earth commit fornication. And there's all of this commerce and all of this luxury and all these pearls and gold and, and, uh, self-gratification with which she is associated.

But she is dressed and what it says in your Bible is, uh, uh, purple and scarlet in verse four of chapter 17. But in Greek, this is red and blue, and she's got on a white robe. It tells us later, the fine linen is always white.

She's a red, white, and blue woman. And it's my, uh, speculation that after the rapture, this nation is going to be the, the embodiment of false religion, because that which hinders has been taken out of the way. And it doesn't go pagan.

It goes hyper-religious. It goes super Catholic. And it is going to be perhaps embodied and symbolized in the United States itself.

And the destruction of that false religion is going to coincide with the destruction of the United States. It's possible. I wouldn't die for that, but it, it seems symmetrical.

Why is she red, white, and blue? I mean, maybe the South Korean flag is red, white, blue, but it just, it looks like us. And the, this sobbing as the merchants of the earth stand afar off in ships and watch the smoke rise and say, where are we going to sell our goods? We had such great commerce and such profit, um, is eerily like the post-apocalyptic nuclear winter, uh, you know, imaginations that we've had about the destruction of the U.S. So it's, when you think about how this woman becomes different things, depending on your perspective, that suggests itself to my mind. And in the same way, Jesus said, there will be physical birth pangs before the great and terrible day of the Lord.

The spiritual birth pangs that you see around us today, philosophically, spiritually, I think are birth pangs for the spiritual bankruptcy that is going to precede the destruction of the harlot and the implementation of that great tribulation. Well, I've run myself out of time for tonight, but I have as

my hope that we've stepped back and looked at what the purpose of the book of revelation is. What purpose does it serve? Just like the old Testament, God sends opportunities as each seal breaks, as each trumpet blows, as each bowl is poured, whatever your perspective on how this unfolds, God is looking for repentance.

And you see these notations, even after all these things, men did not change their minds. All of us have areas where we need change of mind. That's what God is looking for.

And he will use adverse things to give us an occasion for change of mind. And at that point we have a choice. Are we going to be blind and share the blindness of Satan, the blindness that can't connect dots, can't understand that there is a God in heaven and he has a wonderful and gracious way, or are we going to continue these essentially self-oriented pursuits that ultimately result in destruction? All these things have been written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

It's for our instruction. So as I think about it, I'm not so worried about, well, does the sixth seal open before the seventh trumpet blows? I'm looking at how can people be so obdurate and rebellious against God, seeing his power, being told of his grace. You've got the two witnesses and it's like, why would you choose destruction when there is salvation? Why would you choose hardship when there is peace? Why would you choose death when there is life? But we can be so blind.

We're all made out of the same dust and ashes. And it's not difficult to recognize in ourselves, looking at these big pictures, the individual areas where we can benefit. We can prayerfully request the ministry of the Holy Spirit to do his convicting work in us and help us see the places where we can do better.

We can have change of mind, leading to the peace that Jesus promised us, the opportunities for service, and reflecting his glory in the ages to come. So I'm more interested, not so much in the prophetic foreview, as in the applicational value of looking at these great movements at the close of God's plan and purpose in the ages. And I hope all of us are.

We'll close here in a word of prayer. We'll pick up next time. I still haven't gotten to my third woman, but if you can't be here next time, she's in Revelation 19 and she is the wife of the Lamb.

That's an interesting scene. Is she the new Jerusalem or is she the church? What's my answer to either or questions? Yes. Yes.

Preview of coming attractions. Father, thank you for the truth of your word. Thank you for the presence and power of your Holy Spirit to use the scriptures to illuminate our hearts, to illuminate our paths, to bring us closer to you through Christ.

We pray that as we reflect on these things that the Holy Spirit will find us receptive and malleable,

teachable, and motivated to use the time that remains to us in this life, however long or short, to be found faithful and obedient, pleasing in your sight, and useful for future service. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.