

Rev 25-10-05b

Let's pick up our study now. We are taking an excursion forward to Revelation chapter 13, because current events almost require that we do so to make sure that we are well-positioned to live our lives as unto the Lord, not unto men, that we see the signs of the times, that we are pleasing in God's sight as we move through the days that remain to us in this life and anticipate the soon return of the Lord Jesus to take us to himself. So we have seen that as never before, the landscape, particularly in the area of technology, as well as geopolitics is aligning more and more closely with prophecies delivered in God's word 2,000 years ago, 2,400 years ago from the Old Testament prophets, Daniel and Ezekiel, reemphasized, solidified and expanded in the Revelation.

What a wonderful opportunity we have to rest in the peace that passes understanding, knowing that our mighty God is superintending and in charge of all of the events that we experience large and small, global, national, local, individual and personal. God is the God of the macroscopic and the microscopic. He is the God of the universe, of the galaxies, of the angels and the angelic hosts.

He is the God of the earth and they that dwell therein. He is the God of his people. He is the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our savior.

He is present with us when we have the words of the Lord Jesus and keep them. And he is intimately aware and involved in all of the details of our lives, large and small. One of the things you can take away from the Revelation, we're already seeing it in the letters to the seven churches.

God is a God of fine detail, fine detail. It isn't that there is so much going on in the planet, in the universe, in heaven, that we are too small to be noticed. Remember in the Psalms, what is man that thou art mindful of him or the son of man that you are present with him, that you visit him, but he is and he does.

And that's why we appreciate God. We worship him. We thank him.

We bless his name because he is just as detailed and just as involved in the everyday circumstances of your life and my life. He is aware of the thoughts and intents of our hearts as these broad scope worldwide events and issues as they unfold and as they move toward a culmination in the 70th week, in the time of Jacob's trouble. So we've already seen that God has given us the information in his word, not only to inform the people who will live through those times.

There are those who will come to faith. They will be Old Testament saints. It's the last seven years of the age of Israel and they will be party to those covenants, but they will need this information and God has put it in his word.

There won't have to be a fresh prophet and he suddenly has to try to get it published online. I don't think anything of a biblical nature will be permitted online in those days. Can you imagine if all of the saints and faithful have left? And if you don't have a paper copy of a Bible, how are you going to get the word of God? Because it will be prohibited.

It will be forbidden. It will be expunged and erased from every online source. Software won't work.

If you're not connected to the cloud, your computer won't work and so on. It will be so critical to have the word of God in hard copy form at that time. So anybody that comes to our house after we're gone can supply a platoon with Bibles.

There are that many in the house. If you've got a loved one you're not sure of, leave one out with their name on it and say, I left this for you because it's useful for them, but it is useful for us. Just as we look backward to the Old Testament, we observe, we interpret, we apply.

We see the wonderful character of God, the grace of God, the provision of God, the patience, the long suffering of God revealed in the Old Testament. We understand it in our own lives and we benefit. We look forward in the revelation and we see it in the future.

Gives us the ability to parse our current situation and make good decisions and live our lives in a way that pleases the Lord. So in Revelation 13, the beast arises and we've seen the characteristics here of a lion and of a bear and of a leopard and the seven heads. And I mentioned on Wednesday night, I'm not gonna review that part, take too long.

The seven heads and the 10 horns, I went through that in detail. I will just point out that John says the horns had crowns. And what this implies to me is that these various avenues of power, horns represent power.

And I gave you a speculative list of these different areas of power, but with crowns on them, this is going to be implemented by governments. Governments are gonna require this. They will pass laws, there will be penalties.

There could be imprisonment or worse for those who do not succumb, who do not bow to and function under these various levels of power. Crowns are sovereignty. Crowns are victory, oversight, conquest, and they will conquer every realm of life.

So you pick up here in verse three, one of his heads was mortally wounded and his deadly wound was healed and all the world marveled and followed the beast. This has not yet happened. The nature of this mortal wound and how it is recovered, it could be that some wild eyed person takes out a big server farm and part of the internet, maybe a great center of AI goes down, melts down.

Something happens to it and it seems as though the whole system is gonna crash and permanently so. But it is healed. And again, this is all based on my speculation that this beast is

an implementation of AI via the internet.

This is my persuasion. I don't think there's anything else that comes close. And if that's the case, one of these heads, go back to Wednesday night and see what I think those may be.

But I will say this, there is a website. This is the coolest thing. I was gonna try to bring it up on the screen here, but I'll let you look at it.

Just write this down, make a note. This is gematrix.org, gematrix, G-E-M-A-T-R-I-X. It's based on the word gematria.

This is the Jewish system of numerology. This is how you get the number of a name or the number of an entity, right? And you can go there. It's really cool.

It's got a gematria calculator, and you can put your name in there and see what it adds up to numerically under several different systems. Now, this is fun. Do not take this seriously.

I am not using this as an argument or a persuasion. I'm just saying you can put all kinds of things in there and get a numerical result. You can also click a numerical result.

They know everybody is interested in 666. So if you click 666, there's like 20-something pages of things that all add up to 666. I read the first 13 or 14 pages and just got bored.

The craziest stuff adds up to 666. It's tiresome by the time you get through that many screens. But I had a thought, and on a lark, I typed in the major founding Elon Musk-funded originally entity that came up with AI, and it's what sponsors ChatGPT, which I use on an almost daily basis.

I love it. It's great. It's not evil.

It's not harmful. It's a tool. You just have to know how to work it.

It isn't compromising my spiritual life in any way. I'm not using it instead of Bible study to derive truth or get answers. If that were to take place, if guys are going to ChatGPT to get their sermon outlines, that's a problem.

They need to go take that to the Lord. But OpenAI is the company that created ChatGPT, O-P-E-N-A-I. That's the name of it.

If you go to gmatrix.org, and you put in OpenAI Artificial Intelligence, the phrase OpenAI Artificial Intelligence, and tell it, what's that number? It's 666. It just will spook you out. But it's the simplest thing in the world.

OpenAI is the originator. They are still in the lead. They're in the forefront of this.

Google's got Gemini. Microsoft's got something of theirs. But I think they may even be partnering with Google at this point with Bing and whatever theirs is.

But OpenAI is the granddaddy of them all. It's what got this thing launched. They pioneered LLMs and so on.

OpenAI Artificial Intelligence, the gematria is 666. I'm just saying. Total support for my speculation.

Back to our actual biblical study. And I pointed this out on Wednesday night, but notice, here's another clue about the nature of this thing. The dragon gives him, in verse two of chapter 13, power, a throne, and great authority.

The power, the rulership, and the authority is satanically granted. Satan is not alive and at work in the technology itself, but he can influence those who produce and operate the technology. Again, you can take a log, you can use half of it to make a fire, and you can use the other half to make an idol.

That's scripture. We saw that in our Kings and Prophets study. What do you do with the material? There is gonna come a point where under satanic influence, if this speculation has any validity, Satan is going to use this technology via its operators, its originators, its sustainers, those who run the servers and perpetrate the algorithms and feed it its data and so on.

Satan is going to get into the mix, and it is going to suddenly take on a power that it does not currently have. A throne means you are controlling people. You are judging people.

You are penalizing people. You have that feet of the bear crushing, dominating power. You have that leopard-like ability to be everywhere quickly, and you have the lion's ability to speak great swelling words and to put yourself forth as the be-all and end-all, and people on the earth will find it necessary.

We can't think fast enough. We can't respond to international threats fast enough. Let's put this thing in charge, and we will all obey.

Human beings will surrender their sovereignty over their personal lives, and nations will surrender their sovereignty to this entity. Again, obviously not happening now. We will be gone when it does happen, but you can see the beast rising out of the sea as we speak.

And as we talked about during the break, the advances and the forward moving of this is on a near daily basis. There's not a week that goes by that there is not fresh news, more power, bigger advance. The price of precious metals, gold and silver, is skyrocketing because of AI and everyone recognizing the industrial need for these metals.

And people thought it was high when it got up to \$1,600 or \$1,700 an ounce for gold. It's already bumping against \$4,000 an ounce, and it will probably continue to rise. If I thought my purpose on this earth was to make money, I would be investing in precious metals because they're going nowhere but up.

The amount of silver and gold that it takes to make these machines, people used to want silver and gold for other reasons, ornamentation and symbols of power. Now, the industrial use is pushing these things to unforeseen heights. It's going to suffer a huge setback.

One of the seven heads, go back and review them, pick the one you think is susceptible. And they're thinking, well, this has died, it's going to bring the whole thing down, but it's going to come back. So people will worship the dragon who gave authority to the beast.

Notice, this is going to result in the worship. Now, when you say you worship the dragon, when we worship God, how do we worship him? We do not see him. We don't have a view of his throne.

We don't hear his voice in heaven. We listen to his word and it is definitional for us. It is motivational for us.

We worship God because of what we know about him, what he has communicated to us, how he represents himself to us, Old Testament and new. Satan is going to represent himself as the ultimate angel of light. And people are going to worship that principle.

There is an adumbration, there's an anticipation of that in the theory of evolution. Evolution has given human beings an alternative to the creator and the creation account. I believe that.

I now look for evolution and its principles at work, not just in biology, but in many areas. I look at evolutionary principles and survival of the fittest. This is the principle that makes sense of life for me.

And that's worship. You worship at the altar of secular humanism. You worship at the altar of materialism.

You worship at the altar of evolutionary thought that says there is no need for God. I've got a fitting replacement explanation for everything. When it says they will worship the dragon, this is going to be the worship of human science.

Look at what we have built for ourselves. This is the ultimate tower of Babel that will allegedly raise mankind to formerly unattainable heights and altitudes. It's a technological tower of Babel built by human hands and people will worship the ideas and the thinking and the achievement that brings it about.

And it's all good. Look at the wonderful thing. We're curing diseases that were intractable.

We are solving problems that were intractable. We are getting answers that were formerly unsolvable problems from this and people will worship. This is our go-to for everything.

They used to look in physics for the theory of everything. Well, this is information-wise the answer, the theory of everything, and it will be worshiped and it will present itself as an angel of light. They marvel and follow the beast.

Notice they're worshiping the dragon who gives it its power, authority, and throne, but they're following the beast because this is the earthly implementation. This is the day-to-day contact. And who is like the beast and who is able to make war with him? Think in simpler terms.

Who is able to play chess against a computer? You can't beat them. They've absorbed every chess game that was ever played. They know all the principles.

They can go an indefinite number of plies ahead of where the human brain can go. There is no longer the ability to beat a computer in chess. How much more so to make war? How are you going to stop it? How are you going to unplug the server farms? How are you going to dismantle the internet? How are you going to take away the power? It can't be done.

Who can make war with him? Who can oppose him? There's nothing like it. There's nothing who can stand or a thing that can stand against it. And notice it is given a mouth.

It doesn't have a mouth. This isn't an individual born of women. This is given a mouth, which is the ability to speak so that it can speak great things and blasphemies.

Oh, these poor benighted individuals that saw the Bush's wave and developed a spooky theory. This whole God myth. God will well and truly be dead at this point.

And blasphemies, this will be anti-God, anti-Bible, anti-spiritual truth, anti-Christ in policy. The policy will be anti-Christ. This is what John talks about in his epistle.

The spirit of anti-Christ is already at work to oppose and resist the truth of Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. And notice he is given authority to continue 42 months, three and a half years, 1,260 days. So he's going to open this mouth that is given to him.

This is a technological add-on. I would speculate, and this is down the road in speculation, that in these days, rather than have multiple avatars or different search engines that can give you results, there will be one. It will be the Wizard of Oz, so to speak.

And it will have one face and one voice. And anytime you make appeal for information or for guidance or for understanding, this is what you are going to see. It is going to be a monolithic entity.

It will have the seven heads. It will have the 10 horns, but it has a single name. And it is spoken of in the singular here with a mouth, not seven mouths.

If it had seven heads, why doesn't it have seven mouths? It's got a single name, single identity, and it's got a single mouth. It has been given this mouth, and he will open that mouth to speak in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name. Everything that is connected to God, his reality as the creator, as the judge of all, as the standard of righteousness, as the source of true morality and true ethics, as the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, all of that will be set aside as myth.

Dusty old goat herds thought this stuff up. Who could believe it? Look at the true intelligence and the true understanding that we have created in this repository of all knowledge. Remember, knowledge puffs up.

One of the major criticisms of the Tilly Norwood AI actress and the other actors that are AI generated in this short clip they've posted online, people say, there's a weird lack of empathy. I don't feel a connection. I would have known it was AI even if you didn't tell me.

There is an artificiality. There is a superficiality that genuine fine actors are able to perform in a way that connects, that reflects, that we buy into because we have felt that way. We have experienced those emotions and so on.

And the regurgitation of superficial analysis of performances cannot replicate that connection. Knowledge puffs up, love builds up. Machine knowledge, LLMs, AI can't love.

And this pseudo God who is going to be given a throne and the ability to speak can't love. It is an ineffable quality of sentient creation in general and the source of all love is God, God the Father, who so loved the world that he gave his son. Herein is love, et cetera.

So, 42 months, we will get to an understanding of whether numbers in Revelation are literal or symbolic, there's a great discussion about that. Verse six, he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God to blaspheme his name, his tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. Covered this on Wednesday.

At this point, we will be dwelling in heaven and those who have left this earth are going to be explained away in blasphemous terms. They've all headed for the hills. They're in enclaves and conclaves.

They've gone to ground. They're hiding. They didn't understand.

They didn't want to comply. And you will have no way to verify this because all of technology is under the control of this system. There will be no reporting.

There will be no cameras. There will be no drones. There will be no messages.

There will be, you can't mail a letter and that's why you can't tell where they are. This system will say, oh, they're around. You just can't see them.

When we are actually gone to glory, reports of the rapture will be suppressed, canceled, eliminated, erased. There won't be the news like left behind purports there to be. So he's given a mouth, he's given a throne, he's given authority, he being this entity represented by the beast and the scripture uses male personal pronouns.

The beast pronouns are he, him. Verse seven, notice it is granted to him. He doesn't have this intrinsically.

It's not a component part. We are born normally with abilities. This thing, everything has to be given to it.

It is granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. Now, these are the remaining, these are gonna be tribulational saints. There are those who are gonna wake up and realize, wait a minute, this looks a little too much like revelation.

All right, I'm convinced. The 144,000 servants of God will be such. There will be others who will come to faith post rapture and by that faith, they will be sanctified.

And this will not be tolerated by this new entity that dominates the world and controls everything in it. It's seven heads, it's 10 horns. And it is approved and ratified by governments, crowns on the horns.

So it will be granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. To overcome God's saints, God has to allow it. There are times when this is the plan and purpose of God.

God did not send angels to defend Stephen when he was being stoned to death. The old song, he could have called 10,000 angels, the Lord Jesus on the cross, to destroy the world and set him free. He could have called 10,000 angels, but it was granted that they be able to crucify him.

It was granted that they could crucify Peter. It was granted that they could behead Paul. It will be granted to the two witnesses that we will see later on in Revelation.

They will prevail for a time, and it will be granted that they be defeated and killed and slain. God grants this. God granted to Satan power over Job's health, his family, all of his material possessions.

He was not allowed to take his life, but God could have granted that as well. It is granted by God. And we'll let this thing run.

We'll, let's grant you the space so that it can out itself, reveal itself, show itself for what it is. And this is gonna wake people up who are susceptible to faith, but it will be granted to make war with the saints and to overcome them. We are gonna see in the letter to Smyrna coming up that they need to be faithful unto death.

They're gonna have tribulation 10 days. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. People say, well, be faithful to the point of death.

Some of those in Smyrna will be slain. This has ever been the case. The first centuries of Christianity, Roman persecution, Jewish persecution, Christians were slain, and God did not intervene because they were believers.

God works these things together for good. Is our faith great enough to trust the Lord even when it is time for us to lose our life? And this takes place even by age, by disease, by accident,

by malfeasance. There are wonderful believers that have been murdered in cold blood, that have been random victims of attack from crazy people.

We've had it recently in the news. It is granted. People in the 70th week need to understand that God knew this was going to happen, and God is allowing it to happen.

It is part of God's purpose. And to not be thrown over and say, well, God didn't say I'd lose my life. God says you will lose your life.

You may lose your life. But do you wanna fear those that can kill the body? Or do you wanna fear him who can kill both body and soul in the lake of fire? It will be granted to him to overcome them, and authority is given to him over every tribe, every people, your text note in the New King James, people belongs there. This is universality.

That's why there's four things, every tribe, every people, every tongue, and every nation. However you wanna classify people, he will have authority. It will have authority.

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, slash it, whose names have not been written in the book of life of the lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Notice there is a reminder here that the Lord Jesus lost his life in service of God's plan and purpose, but he was raised. And there is a reminder that the lamb is alive and well.

By the time you get to chapter 13, he's been cracking open the seals on the scroll. And it is a reminder, be faithful unto death, you'll receive the crown of life. You are coming back in a much better place, a much better way.

So those who have their names written will not fail. They will not succumb. They will not worship.

If anyone has an ear, let him hear. Individuals need to take this to heart. Groups, people's tongues, nations, and tribes are gonna be overcome.

Everyone on the earth, unless they are a believer, is going to worship, is going to fall into line, is going to submit, gonna surrender their authority and their free will. Not those whose names are written in the book. These are believers, and if they pay with their lives, it's a short trip to the millennial kingdom.

If anyone has an ear to hear, let him hear. Do we have ears to hear? Even one? Yes, we do. What should we take to the bank on this by way of application? Even if circumstances result in us losing our lives, in whatever way, shape, or form, the presence of sin means the presence of disease and death.

The wages of sin is death. We all die. In Adam, all die.

But in Christ, all shall be made alive. And as we see the end of our life approaching, we see the lives of others ending, it is a reminder that the Lord Jesus is the Lord of life. In the world, we

have tribulation.

He has overcome the world, so be of good cheer. He is the firstfruits of those that sleep. He is the firstborn out from the dead.

In him, we will come back. We'll be back. I've told you before, I love Johnny Carson's tongue in cheek.

He said, I want my epitaph to be what he used to say before the commercials, I'll be right back. Hopefully he's a believer and that will actually come true. But be faithful.

He who leads into captivity and so on. But you see the description of the beast here. We see, I think, this entity which surpasses the capability of any nation, any individual in history if there is in fact a nation or a national confederacy, if it's the revived Roman empire, fine.

It is still, I think, going to use this technology and these never before seen unprecedented powers to perpetrate its will. And I think any group will be overcome by it and dominated by it to the same extent that we have seen. So we have a twofold principle here.

Distinguish between the harmlessness of the piece of wood and we can use it to cook our food. Nothing wrong with AI. Harmless, useful tool, wonderful abilities that come with it.

It can be a tremendous blessing. There are some who are going to take the other half of the wood and they're going to make it into an idol. And that turns the wood into something it was not before and it becomes an object of worship.

And it now is in the realm of great evil. So fear not whatever technology comes along, but watch. The very first verse gives you the key.

If it starts to perpetrate blasphemy or require blasphemy, or it wants to insinuate itself into the place that God holds and the Lord Jesus holds in our lives, if we are troubled by a situation and instead of praying and resorting to God's word, we say, chat GPT, I've got this relational problem. What do you suggest I say to this person? How can I handle these emotions? And you start looking to technology or pharmaceuticals or anything else, not for their intended purpose, which is all good, but for a purpose that God has claimed for himself. Now you're in trouble.

Now you are essentially taking the mark of the beast before he ever gets here. You can do that now by misusing things and replacing God's proper status. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Don't take his name in vain. Don't make any graven image and set that up in place of God. The first three commandments tell you what to watch out for.

As long as we can worship, as long as the internet brings us wonderful sermons and resources to understand God's word better, as long as we can broadcast our studies and fellowship together, it's a wonderful thing. Blasphemy, name in vain, substitute for God and the things of

God, now it's a problem. And that can pertain in any area of our life.

You can watch too much television. You can watch too much news. You can get too involved in a group that gossips and maligns and judges.

You can get too invested in any number of things and it elbows God out of his rightful place. Consider yourself to have taken the mark of the beast at that point. That's the application.

Very pertinent for all of us. Well, we will pick back up this coming Wednesday and finish our look at the church in Smyrna. So interesting.

Can't wait to get back to Smyrna. But as things unfold, Middle East peace deals, technology, innovations and unforeseen things, relax. We have the peace of God that passes all understanding.

It keeps our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. And Father, we thank you for that privilege. We thank you for the presence and power of your Holy Spirit for the opportunity to enjoy the presence of the Lord Jesus and you yourself in our lives, in our souls, as we rest at the oasis of your word and drink the water of life.

We pray that God, the Holy Spirit will remind us of who we are, why we're here. Keep us watchful and alert. Help us to see the illuminated narrow path that heads for the straight gate to life.

And as your word guides us, may we do all things in a way that is pleasing in your sight and glorifying to the Lord Jesus. We ask it in his name. Amen.