

THREE BEASTS

AN UNHOLY TRINITY

(Revelation 13)

SESSION #9 – WORKBOOK

Intended For

“KINGDOM WARRIORS IN THE ARMY OF GOD”

Unveiling Mysteries in the “Book of Revelation”

Based upon the Book:

GOD’S ANOINTED WARRIORS

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THREE BEASTS – AN UNHOLY TRINITY

The purpose of this session is to prepare soldiers in the army of God by providing advance intelligence concerning the dark and terrifying leadership that will soon arise from among the nations of the world.

- This will be a time of great trouble as evil leaders, who have been anointed by Satan, will be obsessed with eliminating the kingdom of God from the face of the earth and establishing an antichristian power throughout the earth.

Key Points:

If Satan is to successfully complete his mission of worldwide conquest, he must quickly rally the entire world to unite under his lordship.

- So far he has been unable to destroy the woman in the wilderness, but he has developed a terrible new plan.
- He is about to establish the greatest and most powerful kingdom in the age of mankind.
- A kingdom that will be led by two men anointed with monumental satanic power.
- Their primary mission is to rally the entire world to rise up and devour all those who faithfully proclaim the name of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Thus, this phase of John's vision begins with Satan, the dragon, standing alongside the sea, knowing that his time is rapidly running out.

Notes:

A BEAST RISES UP FROM THE SEA

And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. *Revelation 13:1*

- John is a witness to this yet future event when he sees a dreadful beast possessing tremendous power rising up out of the sea.

Key Points:

The sea is frequently symbolic in Scripture of agitated and troubled peoples and nations who are controlled by the power of sin.

For example:

- *But the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt. Isaiah 57:20*
- *And the angel said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. Revelation 17:15*

Therefore, this beast arises from the midst of tumultuous nations who have been experiencing tremendous devastations and are crying out for a Hollywood-type savior.

- It is quite probable that this troublesome period on the earth is the aftermath of the “trumpet series” of events; a time of famine, plagues, and a terrified populace caused by events that wiped out 1/3 of mankind and the natural resources of the earth.

Notes:

A BEAST RISES UP FROM THE SEA

In the previous chapter, Satan, the Dragon, was symbolized by seven “crowned heads” along with ten horns.¹

- Here in this chapter, the Beast from the sea is described as having seven heads and ten “crowned horns.”

Key Points:

Thus, this Beast from the sea is not Satan, but it resembles him, and is submissive to Satan’s authority.

- The Dragon is the most ferocious of all beasts and here we see that he intends to give his power and authority to his “beastly son” (the Antichrist), who will use it in an attempt to carry out his father’s purposes.
- Satan is a spirit and as such, he cannot establish an earthly throne in person. He needs a human agent to be subject to him as a world ruler.
- Thus, the Antichrist is about to receive what Jesus Christ refused when Satan offered Him all the kingdoms of the world in exchange for His allegiance.²

Notes:

¹ Revelation 12:3

² Matthew 4:8-10

A BEAST RISES UP FROM THE SEA

Beasts in scripture are frequently symbolic of great world empires.³ These empires all have different characteristics even as wild beasts are different.

- They may differ in strength, courage, speed, viciousness, and crushing power much like leopards, bears, and lions differ from one another. Some are nobler than others and some are more despicable.

Key Points:

This final beast combines all the characteristics of the great empires which have historically ruled parts of the world.

- This terrible Beast arising out of the sea is symbolic of that last evil kingdom that will reign during the time known as the Great Tribulation
- It will have the courage and ferocity of a lion, will conquer with the speed of a leopard, and possess the merciless crushing power of a bear.
- This final world power does not consist of just one nation and one people; but it combines within itself all the evil character and powers of every worldly kingdom that has historically arisen in opposition to the Kingdom of God.

Notes:

³ Daniel 7-8

(Slides # 8 - 9)

SEVEN HEADS OF THE BEAST

And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. And the beast that I saw was like a **leopard**; its feet were like a **bear's**, and its mouth was like a **lion's** mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. *Revelation 13:1-2*

Key Points:

The seven heads are representative of great empires that have historically risen to oppose the Kingdom of God throughout the centuries.

At the time that John received this vision, around 95AD, he was told that five of these empires had already fallen; one was currently ruling; and the last one was yet to come.⁴

- The “five” that had already fallen were the **Egyptian** Empire, the **Assyrian** Empire, the **Babylonian** Empire, the **Persian** Empire, and the **Grecian** Empire. (These last three were symbolized by a lion, bear, and leopard in Daniel’s vision).
- The sixth empire that was currently ruling during John’s vision was the **Roman** Empire.
- Although these six historical empires have all been great and powerful, none has ever succeeded in attaining universal power over the entire earth, nor have they been able to overcome the Kingdom of God.

Notes:

⁴ Revelation 17:9-10

SEVEN HEADS & TEN HORNS OF THE BEAST

Key Points:

Unlike the first six kingdoms, the last kingdom will come by a confederation of prominent nations rather than by military conquest.

- This is represented by the “ten horns” which is symbolic of a final manifestation of United Nations which will all be of one mind.

Satan has learned that one nation cannot accomplish world domination.

- It needs to be a league formed of the “seventh head” made up of the “ten horns” who will eventually give their power over to a man.⁵
- This is the Beast in its entirety; a confederation of world powers being of one mind and giving all of their power over to a man. This is also the resurrection of the old kingdom of Nimrod’s Babel, a united confederation, in modern form.⁶

The seventh head of this beast, together with the ten horns, represents the “end times” kingdom which collides with Jesus Christ and His mighty army in the final conflict preceding His second coming.

Notes:

⁵ Revelation 17:11; Daniel 7:8

⁶ Herman Hoeksema, *Behold, He Cometh* (Grand Rapids, MI: Reformed Free Publishing Association, 1969), p.576

ANTICHRIST – THE FINAL WORLD RULER

Key Points:

From within this seventh kingdom will arise a leader who will personify the darkness of Satan in the flesh; an “anointed one” whom Satan has chosen to rule over this final demonic kingdom.

- This is the Antichrist, Satan’s messiah to the world, who possesses his father’s image and will require all the earth to bow down and worship his spiritual father.
- Just as Jesus is the Son of God who came in the flesh to redeem His people out of the world, now the Antichrist is the son of Satan who comes in the flesh to eliminate the people of God from the face of the earth.
- The Antichrist will honor all who acknowledge him and set them up as rulers and reward them with land and wealth taken from among the people.⁷

Because of the apparent relationship of the ten horns to the Roman Empire revealed in the book of Daniel, it appears as if the Antichrist may arise out of a modern culture that is descended from the ancient Roman Empire.⁸

- However, he may or may not presently be a citizen of any contemporary European, Middle Eastern, or northern African nations who were once a part of the Roman Empire.
- It’s possible that he could even be an American whose ancestors came from a region that was once under the control of the Roman Empire.

Notes:

⁷ Daniel 11:39

⁸ Daniel 7:8

(Slides # 15 - 16)

ANTICHRIST – HIS POPULARITY

Key Points:

The Antichrist will emerge on the world’s political scene in the aftermath of worldwide economic, environmental, and military disasters.

- He gains control by stepping up at this time and mesmerizing the masses into believing that he alone is the one who can lead the world into peace and prosperity through a multitude of promised “changes.”
- He will seduce many with flatteries to the point where even the wise among the people will stumble and be led astray.⁹
- He probably is quite handsome and certainly has a charismatic personality that can mesmerize the masses like a popular rock music celebrity.
- All they know is when they see and hear this man speak, it makes them feel “warm and fuzzy” inside. They relish the vague terms of “hope” and “change.” He will be perceived by the masses as their true savior.

Although the man known as the Antichrist will be charismatic, he will also be very firm in his speech and probably with eyes that appear hypnotic, along the lines of Adolph Hitler’s.

- Being possessed by Satan, he will have the fierce countenance of a lion; flattering, but very dangerous to those who will not idolize him.

Notes:

⁹ Daniel 11:32; 35

(Slides # 17 - 18)

ANTICHRIST – THE APPEARANCE OF INVINCIBILITY

One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" *Revelation 13:3-4*

Key Points:

Somewhere in his rise to absolute power, he receives a mortal wound to the head that appears to be fatal. This will probably occur when his popularity is growing for it appears as if the entire world is aware of this apparently fatal incident.

- Perhaps he will physically suffer an assassination attempt which is falsely published in the media as having been fatal.
- Suddenly he will “miraculously” recover and the world will marvel as if their heroic messiah has been raised from the dead.
- This wound may be faked or it may be real but nevertheless, this perceived resurrection will result in much loyalty from the world.

This supposed death of Antichrist and his miraculous recovery is intended to paint a parallel picture with the death of Christ and His resurrection.

- This tactic of the Dragon is designed to weaken the gospel message that the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the only path to eternal life.

Finally, he will certainly convince the world that he is invincible when he brings down three powerful nations in his rise to power.¹⁰ Perhaps the assassination attempt will emanate from among these three nations. At any rate, the world will shout:

“Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?”¹¹

Notes:

¹⁰ Daniel 7:7-8

¹¹ Revelation 13:4

(Slides # 19 thru 22)

THE COMING OF THE TWO-HORNED BEAST

(Revelation 13:11-17)

There is a second agent through whom Satan will use to war against the Kingdom of God.

Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. *Revelation 13:11-12*

Key Points:

He is commonly referred to as the False Prophet.

- He will personify the tenderness and love of a lamb, yet it will be a deceptive form of love, for he will soothingly preach comfort-sounding lies intended to gain the loyalty of mankind through trickery.

The primary mission of the False Prophet will be to bring all of mankind to worship the Antichrist.

- He will have supernatural skills of persuasion as he promotes the Antichrist as a great man with a tremendous love for his people and who will bring peace and prosperity to the world.
- The False Prophet is the workhorse who causes the people to turn to Antichrist. Both are used to delude the masses and exercise their authority over the world.
- Antichrist represents the Kingdom of the World in the political and military realms while the False Prophet deals with the religious, moral, and commercial aspects of this society.

Together with Satan, the Antichrist and the False Prophet will constitute an unholy trinity of malicious evil.

- As Christ received authority from His Father, so Antichrist receives authority from the Dragon; and as the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ, so the False Prophet glorifies the Antichrist.

Notes:

BREAK-TIME (Slides # 23 – 24)

(Slides # 25 – 26)

THE FALSE PROPHET – HIS THREE-FOLD MINISTRY

1 - Signs and Wonders:

It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people,
Revelation 13:13

Key Points:

He will publicly perform incredible signs and wonders before the world for the purpose of demonstrating his supernatural authority.

- This will cause the world to embrace him as a true prophet to whom they must show great respect and obey his every command.
- These miracle workings of the False Prophet will also persuade the vast majority of peoples that the god of the False Prophet is greater than all other gods.

The result of these “showy miracles” will surely shift the focus of many away from the works of Christian disciples to the person of the Antichrist.

- He intends to undermine the works and miracles of the disciples of Jesus Christ who will also be sharing the gospel together with miraculous works during this period of time.

The healing and other miracles of our Lord through the work of His disciples will be directed to needy individuals from a pure heart of love.

- This is in opposition to the miracles of the False Prophet who performs them before the world solely for the purpose of demonstrating supernatural power.

- Those who experience the miracles of God in their life will probably not be deceived by the False Prophet and therefore, the Kingdom of God will continue to increase.

The sincere love emanating from Christ's warrior army for the common people will be clearly obvious to many when compared to Satan's disciples who will resemble popular performing stars designed to enamor the masses.

Notes:

(Slides # 27 thru 30)

THE FALSE PROPHET – HIS THREE-FOLD MINISTRY

2 - Erect an Image of Antichrist:

.....and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. *Revelation 13:14-15*

Key Points:

The False Prophet will command the people to make an “image of the Antichrist” which will then be given breath to speak.

- When this image is complete, all the inhabitants of the world will be required to worship it.
- Those who refuse to worship this “speaking image” will be sought out and slain.

This “image” is somewhat difficult to envision. Let's look at a couple of possible scenarios:

Perhaps this may resemble a “golden image” like that erected by Nebuchadnezzar in ancient Babylon who required all persons to bow down and worship it or be put to death.¹²

¹² Daniel 3:1-7

The False Prophet will command that mankind must receive the mark of the beast in order to participate in the marketplace.

Key Points:

The mark is the number of a man and this number is 666.

The mark not only identifies those who worship the Antichrist, but it appears as if this number will one day identify the man himself.

Numbers are also used to provide deeper understanding of certain passages in scripture. In this passage, the number “6” is commonly understood to represent man, while the number “3” is representative of our Triune God.

- Therefore, 666 is man attempting to be god, but will never reach the number “7” which represents perfection.
- However, I wouldn’t recommend that we spend time attempting to satisfy our curiosity by attempting to identify potential antichrists.
- It will be plain to the people of God when he arrives on the world scene as the sole leader.

The primary purpose for the mark is to control all of the world’s commercial activity. In order to legally buy or sell in this anti-Christian kingdom, one must have this mark upon the forehead or the right hand.

Notes:

(Slide # 34)

THE FALSE PROPHET – HIS THREE-FOLD MINISTRY

3 - Mark of the Beast = 666:

Key Points:

Who are those who receive the mark on their forehead, and who are the ones who receive it on their right hand?

- The forehead is the most exposed and conspicuous part of the body. Perhaps this will be reserved for the leaders in commerce and government so that they may be immediately recognized.
- If so, the mark on the right hand is for the common workers who are also committed to the Antichrist.

This mark will also be beneficial for those among the Body of Christ since its absence, provides a visible means of identifying those who remain faithful to the Lord.

- The ongoing gospel message being proclaimed during this period will most certainly include warnings against receiving this mark of the beast. ¹³
- Many will fall away, yet many will remain faithful unto death.
- They may not be able to buy or sell, but they will faithfully cling to the name of Jesus.

Thus, in the midst of tribulation, God's mighty warriors will be social outcasts in the world, but will maintain. "The Lord Almighty is our God, and Christ alone is our King". And they will not be ashamed.

Notes:

(Slides # 35 – 36)

SATAN'S TACTICS MANIFESTED IN THE

¹³ Revelation 14:9-10

HEADS OF THE BEAST

Satan has historically employed two primary tactics in his zealous rage to obliterate the Kingdom of God from the earth:

Key Points:

First:

- **He uses an all out frontal assault with the intent of completely annihilating the world of Christianity from the face of the earth.**

This has been historically manifested time and again as God's people have been frequently in danger of complete annihilation. Following is a brief examination of Satan's tactics using the first six heads of the beast in their warfare against the Kingdom of God.

We can expect to see these same tactics being used in the future.

- Brutal enslavement: can expect mass imprisonment in concentration camps.
- Women and children being targeted for slaughter in order to create tremendous fear among the masses. This is certainly a favorite tactic among the cowardly Islamic terrorists.
- Murder of the elderly and newborn babies for purpose of controlling population growth.
- Brutal and humiliating torture. For example: The Assyrians captured many Israeli army leaders who were lifted naked, but alive on the heads of spears and paraded them in front of their families & fellow countrymen.
- Destruction of all Christian bibles, music, and worship under the threat of death. Antiochus Epiphanes of the Grecian Empire outlawed the worship of the God of Israel and declared that all Hebrew Scriptures were to be destroyed.

Notes:

(Slides # 37 thru 39)

SATAN'S TACTICS MANIFESTED IN THE HEADS OF THE BEAST

Key Points:

Second:

- **To entice God's people to voluntarily turn from the worship of the Lord to worshipping the "prince of this world."**
- This is the more preferable tactic of Satan since he takes much greater pleasure in turning a man's heart than in killing him. He believes that this proves that he is more worthy of worship than the Lord.

Some historical examples:

1. Enticed the Israeli's with the Egyptian lifestyle.

- Instead of trusting the Lord during the hardships encountered in the wilderness, they grumbled and wanted to return to Egypt.
- This may parallel a great falling away during tribulation times.
- This will be manifested at "decision-time" when all are required to take the "mark of the beast."

2. The influences of the Greek culture which encouraged self-seeking pleasures and immorality.

- Many of the Israeli youth of that day scorned the traditions of Israel, undid their circumcision, and embraced the immoral pleasures of the Greeks.
- This is very prevalent in today's western culture which emphasizes commercialism, sexual immorality, and entertainment as the epitome of an enviable lifestyle.

3. The Roman Empire established a powerful and dark authority within Christianity that was designed to turn Christian worship away from Christ and to human representatives – popes and saints.

- Today's false Christian churches will support this antichristian kingdom and will be a major player in the betrayal of true believers who refuse to compromise their faith.

Christian soldiers, we must anticipate that similar tactics will be employed by the enemy with even greater power in the seventh kingdom ruled by the Antichrist.

Notes:

A SEVEN YEAR COVENANT

Key Points:

As we've seen in a prior session, Jesus Christ comes to confirm the true covenant between God, His Father, and all who embrace Him as their Lord. It is a covenant which ushers in everlasting righteousness and ends with the anointing of a most holy place.¹⁴

However, there is also a covenant that will soon be established by Satan, who is intent on counterfeiting the true works of Jesus Christ.

- This covenant, or peace treaty, is made by Israel without the Lord and is described in Scripture as the "covenant with death" because it is made with the sons of darkness, and will be confirmed by the Antichrist.¹⁵
- However, after 3 ½ years this dark covenant which was founded on lies will be broken by the Antichrist, who will then set up his own image in the Jerusalem temple.
- The setting up of this satanic image in a newly built temple in Jerusalem will be the sign of the beginning of that Great Tribulation which will suddenly ensnare the world.¹⁶

Jesus confirms His Father's covenant when He kept the law perfectly and then laying down His life at the cross for the sins of mankind.

- Thus, after 3 ½ years, Jesus Christ gave His own life as a perfect sacrifice and thereby, did away with the need for the sacrificial system of the Old Covenant.¹⁷
- Antichrist appears to be counterfeiting the 3½ year ministry of Christ by his first 3½ years of uniting world governments.

Notes:

¹⁴ Daniel 9:24

¹⁵ Daniel 9:27; 11:22-24; Isaiah 28:15-22

¹⁶ Matthew 24:15-22

¹⁷ Hebrews 10:8-10

THE PURPOSE FOR THE “TRIBULATION”

Key Points:

What is “tribulation?”

- Tribulation is a time of warfare between the forces of good and evil.
- It is an attack of the world’s system against the true believers of Jesus Christ.

Good and evil cannot coexist. The characteristics of each become more prevalent during a time of conflict.

- As the battle intensifies, the peoples among both sides become more visible and neutrality begins to disappear. Weeds among the church are continually exposed as they fall away and side with the religiosity of the world.
- The armies of the world become larger and darker and more violent in their hatred against God and His people.
- At the same time, the Army of God becomes stronger and more radiant as they stand for the truth of God and His Spirit grows stronger and stronger among them.

Tribulation will increase in escalating stages, yet so will the strengthening of His army.

- This tribulation pressure takes place because of God’s love for mankind and His desire to bring out of darkness unto salvation every single soul possible and to destroy every demonic stronghold that has held the human race captive.
- Lukewarm Christianity will collapse during the Great Tribulation.

Notes:

(Slide # 44)

THE PURPOSE FOR THE “WRATH OF GOD”

Key Points:

The Wrath of God is a military action on the part of the armies of heaven to avenge and rescue God’s people in the world.

- It is manifested primarily in the “opening of the seven seals,” the “blowing of the seven trumpets,” and the “pouring out of the seven bowls of wrath.”
- God’s wrath is directed solely against the forces of darkness.
- However, there are currently many in the world of darkness that will be called into the light.
- Many warnings are poured out from heaven that tend to either draw people to the Lord or to solidify their hatred toward Him. ¹⁸
- What restrains the outpouring of God’s wrath is the ability of His people to maintain their stand and communicate their faith.
- When this is complete and God’s message is shut down within His people, then the full wrath of God will be poured out on the earth.

Notes:

¹⁸ Dan Juster and Keith Intrater, *Israel, the Church and the Last Days* (Destiny Image Publishers, 1991), p. 137-147

(Slide # 45)

OUR LORD’S CALLING: “ENDURE & REMAIN FAITHFUL”

If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.
Revelation 13:10

Key Points:

Antichrist is not looking solely for political control of the world; he is intent on receiving worship from every single individual that lives on earth.

- The working of miracles and the requiring of image worship, together with a marked body, are all designed to visibly identify and unite the individual peoples among the nations in loyalty to Antichrist as well as to one another.
- They are also intended to help identify those persons who will refuse to receive the mark of the Antichrist or bow down to his image.
- These faithful believers will be classified as enemies among the nations and a hindrance to world peace.

Notes:

(Slides # 46 – 47)

OUR LORD’S CALLING: “ENDURE & REMAIN FAITHFUL”

Key Points:

The world system shall make war against the people of God who continue to witness during the reign of this Antichrist.

- These are warriors who refuse to submit to his authority, and maintain that it is not Antichrist, but Christ who is their King.
- They will be deeply hated and the world will wage a continuous war against them and eventually overcome them.

- These will be extremely hard and faith challenging days; days of persecution and a time of “wearing out” the people of God.
- All bibles and other biblical books will be outlawed and the peoples will be required to turn them over to the authorities for burning. Those who refuse will be criminally charged and sentenced to imprisonment.
- Murderous executions, imprisonment in concentration camps, brutal torture, causing separation from family, not allowing food and water to be purchased will all be commonly employed tactics of this evil kingdom. **These are the days of persecution.**

Notes:

(Slide # 48)

IMPRISONMENT VERSUS EXECUTION

Key Points:

One may wonder why imprisonment of many of God’s people is employed by the enemy instead of simply executing them.

- Imprisonment allows time for the enemy to break down the spirit of people for the purpose of allowing them to voluntarily turn away from the Lord and render allegiance to the Antichrist.
- Satan rejoices when men visibly turn away from Almighty God and render allegiance to him, even if it is not from a pure heart.
- Turning men onto him is more important than murdering them since he has defeated what is most important to God; that being, the steadfast faithfulness of His people.

- The one who has turned away from the Lord will be undoubtedly praised before the world as a newly enlightened hero. **This will be a shameful experience.**

Notes:

(Slide # 49)

WHERE IS OUR “HIDING PLACE?”

Key Points:

Our Lord will provide a hiding place for us when the time of persecution arrives. Where is that hiding place?

- For the prophet Daniel, it was both in a king’s palace and in a lion’s den.
- For Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, it was in a fiery furnace.
- For Joseph, it was in an Egyptian prison.
- For David, it was in a cave out in the wilderness.
- For the apostle Paul, it was in prison or shipwrecked in the Mediterranean.
- For the spies sent by Joshua, it was in a harlot’s house in Jericho.
- For Corrie Ten Boom, it was in a flea-infested barracks in a Nazi concentration camp.

They were all right where God wanted them and not a hair on their head perished. So our hiding place is wherever the center of the Lord’s will is for us. The only thing we should fear is being out of God’s will.

- Trust in the Lord for our individual hiding places for they will probably be different for every believer in the End Times.
- Meanwhile stand in the gap and prepare our brothers and sisters for the coming hour of trial.

Notes:

(Slides # 50 - 52)

REJOICING IN THE MIDST OF PERSECUTION

Key Points:

Although Christians will be physically overcome during this horrendous period of time; they are the ones who are victorious in this war.

- They will become outcasts from society, mocked at by former neighbors, family members, and friends; perhaps imprisoned and killed.
- This is the Body of Christ having a similar experience that their Lord Jesus Christ endured 2,000 years earlier. They are now glorious participants in His great victory.
- In the crucial test of faith, they have chosen to relinquish their lives rather than their faith in their God. This is true victory.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. *Matthew 5:10-12*

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. *James 1:2-4*

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you

believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. *1 Peter 1:6-9*

Notes:

(Slides # 53 thru 57)

A CHINESE SONG – “TO BE A MARTYR FOR THE LORD”

Many attend that big American church and hear that if you serve God, you will be healthy and prosperous. In China, it's the exact opposite. You may be healthy and prosperous before you are a Christian, but once you start serving God, seldom will you stay that way.

- Chinese Christians have learned to be committed in their faithfulness even though they realize that they may be torn from their families and martyred.

The following song has been very popular in the Chinese underground churches: ¹⁹

*From the time the early church appeared on the day of Pentecost,
The followers of the Lord all willingly sacrificed themselves.
Tens of thousands have sacrificed their lives that the gospel might prosper.
As such they have obtained the crown of life.
Those apostles who loved the Lord to the end
Willingly followed the Lord down the path of suffering.
John was exiled to the lonely isle of Patmos.
Stephen was crushed to death with stones by the crowd.
Matthew was cut to death in Persia by the people.
Mark died as his two legs were pulled apart by horses.
Doctor Luke was cruelly hanged.
Peter, Philip, and Simon were crucified on the cross.
Bartholomew was skinned alive by the heathen.
Thomas died in India as five horses pulled apart his body.
The apostle James was beheaded by King Herod.
Little James was cut up by a sharp saw.
James the brother of the Lord was stoned to death.
Judas was bound to a pillar and died by arrows.
Matthias had his head cut off in Jerusalem.*

¹⁹ Randy Alcorn, *Safely Home*, (Carol Stream: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2001) p.288-289

Paul was a martyr under Emperor Nero.

I am willing to take up the cross and go forward,

To follow the apostles down the road of sacrifice.

That tens of thousands of precious souls can be saved,

I am willing to leave all and be a martyr for the Lord.

To be a martyr for the Lord,

To be a martyr for the Lord,

I am willing to die gloriously for the Lord.

(Slide # 58)

THE NEXT SESSION:

First Read: Revelation 17 - 18

Mystery Babylon – The Capital of Wealth, Pleasure, & Harlotry

- Identifying the City of Mystery Babylon
- The Woman who Rides the Beast
- Who is this Woman
- What is her Relationship to the Beast
- The Woman Loves the Beast – The Beast Hates the Woman
- Her great fall – She will burn in a day
- The Parallelism between the United States and Mystery Babylon
- Our Lord’s Calling – “Come Out of Her, My People”

Additional Notes:

THE LAMB OF GOD - OUR TRUE “COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF”

The days are rapidly approaching when a tremendous separation will take place among mankind.

Yet, during this present era of warfare, He reigns as our Commander-in-Chief and His Name continues to be the battle cry for those warriors who fight daily for righteousness and truth.

His name is Jesus, Our Lord, Our King, Our Commander-in-Chief

- **A truly mighty Leader who would never delegate assignments to His people that He Himself wouldn't readily embrace.**
- **A Commander that Christian warriors will readily follow not matter the danger or what costs have to be paid.**
- **These are warriors whose deepest desire is to hear Jesus welcome them with the following words when they enter into His presence:**

..... 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' *Matthew 25:21*