

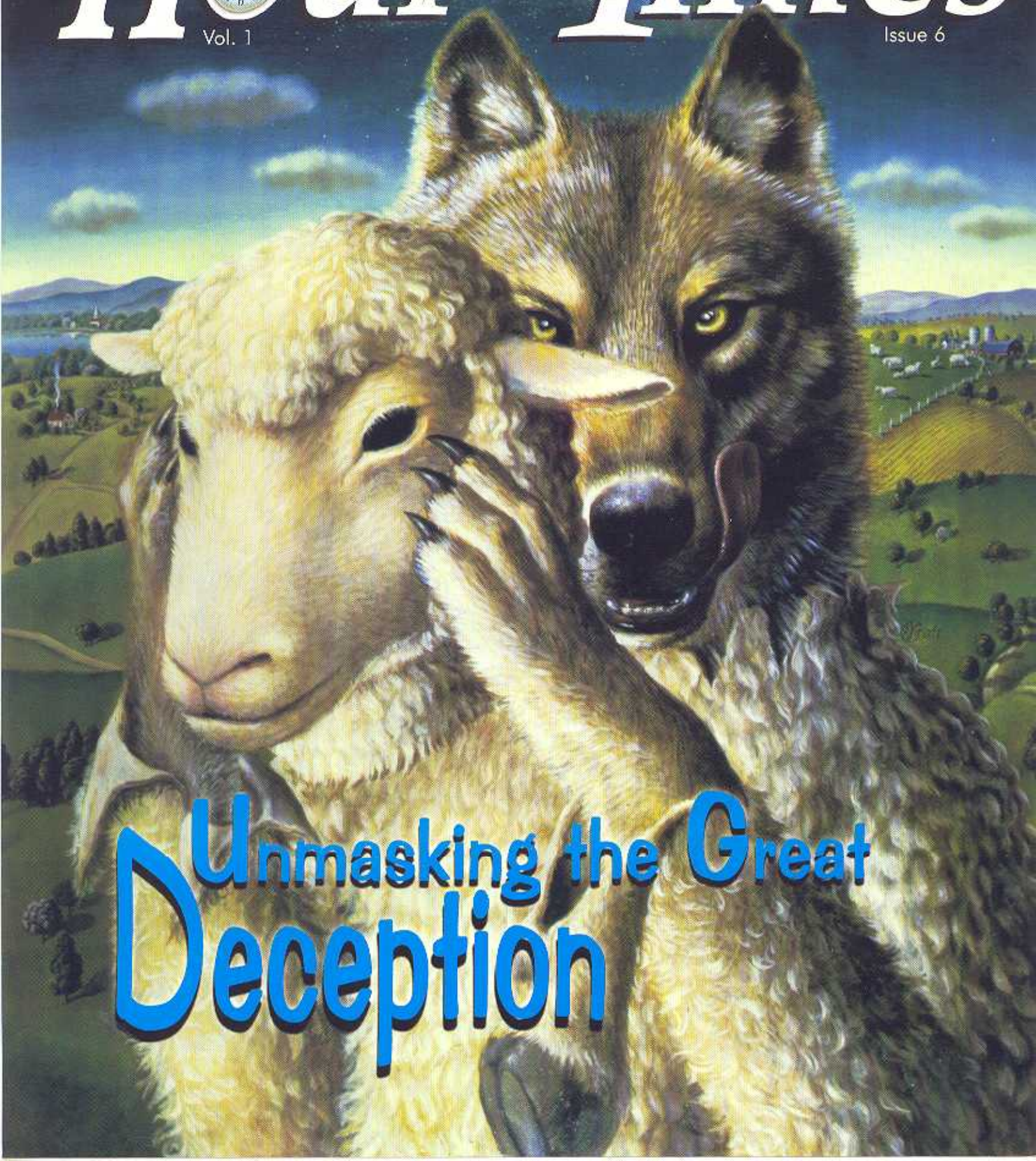
Hour Times

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Issue 6



Unmasking the Great
Deception

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COMING ISSUE



The Judgment—Are You Ready?

The People's Court, Law & Order, and other TV courtroom dramas won't hold a candle to the final judgment. Learn what it will take to be acquitted on that great and fearful day.

Our Mission:

Hour Times, published by Remnant Publications, a nonprofit organization, is produced for the sole purpose of leading individuals, families and society to "A Better Way of Life," as found through God's Holy Word, the Bible. We believe that the Bible is the inspired, infallible Word of God; its principles and counsel are as relevant and binding upon humanity today as they have been throughout the ages.



The Love of Truth

By Jay Gallimore

When it comes to successful trendsetting, we humans would be hard-pressed to outdo the devil. When that very first lie dropped from the lips of the serpent, it started a train of half-truths, twisted truths and untruths long enough to make even a hardened criminal shudder. Human history is littered with wrecks of humanity who have been deceived, hooked and destroyed.

Unfortunately, things are going to get even worse during these, the last days of earth's history. The Bible predicts an era of incredible untruth at the end of time—a time when people will be deceived for one basic reason—they do not love the truth. In other words, because it is more agreeable with their own thinking, they enjoy being lied too! This is an age where the love of truth has been put to death.

NO MORAL TRUTH?

You can't listen to the gurus of modern psychology without being bombarded with the idea that there's no objective moral truth. "Truth is relative," they say, convincing millions that disobeying the Ten Commandments may not actually be a sin, that it all depends on the circumstances.

In other words, moral behavior changes depending on how we, not God, define the circumstances. This concept is very popular because it puts us in charge of morals. It allows us to think we can manipulate God into our own thinking. We, of course, are flattered.

But the flattery doesn't change the misery. Just look at all the pain and suffering in our world. Consider all the lying, stealing and fornication going on without any thought of moral guilt. It's all due to the violation of God's commandments. His law, according to Paul, was given for life. Only by the truth can solutions be found. Lies never give solutions. The temporary pleasure they give is swallowed up in the horrible misery they bring.

Have you ever seen a person die of smoking-related lung cancer or emphysema? It's not a pretty sight. They believed the lies of the tobacco companies.

Then there are the teenage girls getting pregnant by the thousands because they bought the lies of Holly-

wood. Add this to our unbelievable tolerance for the most socially acceptable of all drugs, alcohol. The consumption of alcoholic beverages:

- probably kills 25,000 people a year on the highways alone.
- is involved in a majority of major crimes.
- ruins more marriages and scars more children for life than anyone can calculate.

And why? All because so many have bought the lies of the liquor, beer and wine companies. Of course they will tell you—it's not their fault. No siree, they just give people what they want. Right? Wrong! With seductive advertising they create desires in people for their products. The airwaves are filled with lies, lies and more lies. The devil is the father of lies.

Deception is not funny. Lying is wrong. Truth is a precious commodity because it is the foundation of life and of all relationships. No marriage can survive with lies.

Business and industry cannot prosper without truth. That is because decisions are safe only when based on truth. Buying and giving take place because trust exists. And trust cannot exist in an atmosphere of lies. Lies destroy relationships.

God loves us and longs to have us walk with Him. But those who lie about God—about who He really is and what He requires from us humans—destroy trust in Him. And when trust is destroyed, all God's efforts to draw a person to Himself and save them are also destroyed.

That's why God says His wrath will be revealed to all who suppress the truth. This will be especially true of religious leaders who are more interested in their own popularity and financial security than in telling the truth. Jesus and the apostles predicted that the Christian community would be very susceptible to these kinds of leaders. That is why we hope you will read carefully this issue of *Hour Times*. Test everything written by the Bible. In fact, your only safety is to test all moral and religious teaching by the Scriptures. To do less is to get eaten by wolves. ⓧ

Truth is a precious commodity because it is the foundation of life and of all relationships.

“Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

—Jesus, in Matthew 7:24-25 (NIV)

“The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.”

—Ellen White, *Education*, 57

“Happy is the one who reads this book, and happy are those who listen to the words of this prophetic message and obey what is written in this book! For the time is near when all this will happen.”

—John, in Revelation 1:3 (TEV)

“History’s darkest periods have always produced men and women of vision and purpose to match the perils that faced them; and it will happen again today.

“The stresses and trials of earth’s final crisis will call forth people worthy of this mighty hour and ready to meet its challenge. Buttressed by faith and sustained by hope, they will stand

resolute for God and the right whatever happens.”

—Arthur S. Maxwell, *Courage for the Crisis*, 252

“We have seen and proved that what the prophets said came true. You will do well to pay close attention to everything they have written, for, like lights shining into dark corners, their words help us to understand many things that otherwise would be dark and difficult. But when you consider the wonderful truth of the prophets’ words, then the light will dawn in your souls and Christ the Morn-

ing Star will shine in your hearts. For no prophecy recorded in Scripture was ever thought up by the prophet himself. It was the Holy Spirit within these godly men who gave them true messages from God.”

—Peter, in 2 Peter 1:19-21 (Living Bible)

“The courage of life is often a less dramatic spectacle than the courage of a final moment; but it is no less a magnificent mixture of triumph and tragedy. A man does what he must—in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures—and that is the basis of all human morality.

“To be courageous . . . requires no exceptional qualifications, no magic formula, no special combination of time, place and circumstance. It is an opportunity that sooner or later is presented to us all.”

—John F. Kennedy, *Profiles in Courage*, 209

**Dare to do right! Dare to be true!
Cannot Omnipotence carry you through?
City and mansion and throne all in sight—
Can you not dare to be true and do right?**

**Dare to do right! Dare to be true!
Prayerfully, lovingly, firmly pursue
The path by apostles and martyrs once trod—
The path of the just to the city of God.
—George Lansing Taylor**

We value the opinions and thoughts of our readers. Please share how *Hour Times* has made an impact on your life. Your feedback is essential to our success. Thank you.

Hour Times P.O. Box 426, Coldwater, MI 49036



Dressed to Kill

Illustration by Fran Seigel

How can you tell the true from the false?

By Jay Gallimore

The story has been told of a clever wolf who could never catch quite enough sheep. The sheep always seemed to see him coming, and, pressing together into a woolly circle, the group became very hard to break into.

One day while making his regular rounds, the wolf came across the skin of a hapless mother sheep who had been flayed just the day before. Sensing that craft might work where a head-on approach had failed, the wolf donned the mother sheep's skin.

To his great joy, he was able to stroll right into the flock without the slightest detection. Better yet, the little motherless lamb recognized his "momma" immediately and began to follow the wolf here and there. So the wolf led the little one over a hill and enjoyed a tasty lamb dinner. Then returning to the flock of unsuspecting sheep, he led others astray in much the same manner.

Unfortunately for the flock, the wicked wolf devoured quite a few misguided sheep before they finally discovered what he really was—a wolf in sheep's clothing.

THE DEVIL IN DISGUISE

In case you haven't noticed, the devil is using the wicked wolf's tactics on God's

church, or "flock of sheep," today. As the "great deceiver," he's been perfecting his methods for millennia. His goal is simple: he wants to deceive you so successfully that you won't know what hit you until you are in his eternal body bag. And he is going after the whole world this way.

Although the world is trying to watch out for the devil, when people turn on their "radar screens" to look for him, they're not going to see anything to arouse their concern. Oh, no. All the images the devil lets us see are those of "friendly forces," such as the wolf in sheep's clothing.

But the devil goes even one step farther than that. When the real friendly forces arrive, he hopes to make them look like him! You see, we are all involved in the war between good and evil, Christ and Satan, wolves and sheep. And this war is headed for a major showdown. This last great epic struggle, when both sides engage all their resources, will take place at the time of the end. The perfection of evil will be thrown, without reservation, at the perfection of goodness. It will be the best and the worst of times. It will be confusing. And it will be Babylon.

All the images the devil lets us see are those of "friendly forces," such as the wolf in sheep's clothing.

A WORD OF WARNING

Fortunately, we humans have not been left unwarned about the terrible deceptions that will fascinate and hypnotize the world. Jesus Himself predicted that the devil would use stealth to infiltrate God's forces here on planet Earth.

The forces of Jesus are made up of Christians who work openly against the devil and his angels. They are the declared followers of Christ, whom the devil hates with an indescribable hatred. Of course, they become the special targets of the devil for several sound reasons. They:

- represent the Savior's interests on earth.
- are used by Jesus to take victims out of the devil's hands.
- are well known to reprogram radar screens so people can actually see the devil's plans.
- keep passing on their secrets to new generations.

Yes, God's forces are the source of the devil's trouble, and he knows it. And since they are regarded as a priceless treasure in the eyes of God, the devil will spare no effort or resource to savagely attack these followers of Jesus and destroy their mission to win people's loyalty to the Savior.

Make no mistake—winning the war is an absolute priority to both God and the devil. They both expect victory. The competition between them is fierce. And the weapons they use, though very different, are very effective. God uses truth as His weapon. The devil uses lies, which he tries to pass off as the truth.

THE "NAKED TRUTH"

A parable was once told about how Truth became the "Naked Truth." On a hot summer day, Truth came across a cool river flowing gently to the west. Deciding a swim was in order, Truth took off his clothes and began to enjoy the refreshing water.

About this time, Falsehood came down the road. He saw Truth swimming around, having fun and paying zero attention to passersby. Then

Falsehood spotted Truth's clothes lying there on the bank. Moving quickly, he traded his clothes for Truth's and headed into town.

When Falsehood got to town, he told everyone that he was Truth. Even the doubters had to acknowledge that he certainly had on the clothes of Truth, and many began to believe Falsehood.

Meanwhile, Truth finished his swim and went to put on his clothes. It was then that he discovered what Falsehood had done. As he thought about the situation, he decided that Truth could never wear the clothes of Falsehood. So he headed to town without his clothes.

Falsehood thought his deception of the town would be complete when Truth showed up in his clothes. But Truth showed up naked. Naturally, that got everybody's attention. Now, while Falsehood writhed in agony, the town heard his lies exposed by the "Naked Truth."

POWERFUL DECEPTIONS

As both the above parable and the devil demonstrate so effectively, falsehood clothed as truth can be very powerful. The devil's falsehoods are wolves dressed in sheep's clothing, deceiving the flock.

As "sheep," we need to be aware that what we see is not always genuine. We must be on the alert at all times—not merely for wolves that look like sheep, but for wolves that look like sheep. To be on the alert means to think—and think hard—about what is going on around us.

The devil has a high I.Q. He is not content to merely have some outside force opposing the church. He wants to infiltrate the church itself, using it to destroy the world! But to do that, he has to be very cunning. He knows Jesus and the apostles warned of his deceptions. They shined the word *beware* all over his woolly costume.

In his efforts to nullify those warnings, the devil has tried to destroy the Bible's credibility in the church. He wants to turn off the

warning lights and shut down the sensors, or simply get people to ignore them. Then, when our "guard" is down, there's no limit to the damage he can do.

THE BIBLE WARNING

Fortunately, the Bible gives us im-

As "sheep," we need to be aware that what we see is not always genuine.

portant information about the devil's disguises. The Bible warns us that the devil will attack God's flock in three different phases:

Phase 1: Infiltration Into the Church

The Bible warns us that the devil will make every effort to infiltrate God's church. Listen to the warnings of:

a. Jesus:

- "See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many." (Matt. 24:4, 5, NASB).

- "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance." (Matt. 24:24, 25, NASB).

- "I know your . . . patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars." (Rev. 2:2, NKJV).

b. Peter:

"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed." (2 Peter 2:1, 2).

c. Paul:

"After I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise

and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.” (Acts 20:29-31, NIV).

Phase 2: A Full-fledged Rebellion and a “Deadly Wound”

As Paul’s comments imply, this whole scheme would take hundreds of years to develop and perfect. While the early church was vigorous in its defense of truth, the devil was patient. Over time, he took the seeds of rebellion and grew them with the wheat. The result was a worldwide, organized “Christian” church that rejected the authority of Scripture and actually persecuted true believers who trusted the Word of God.

Jesus Himself predicted this worldwide deception. “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. . . . Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare unto them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’” (Matt. 7:15, 16, 21-23, NKJV).

Paul also wrote of this full-fledged rebellion: “Now brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . we ask you not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled. . . . for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” (2 Thess. 2:1-4, NKJV).

These texts and many others speak of the development of the Antichrist power within the Christian church. Jesus and the apostles predicted that the church would face a terrible challenge that would

threaten its very survival. This attack would come from the inside.

Everyone knows America came into existence because of pilgrims fleeing persecution by the state church. All over Europe the state church had slaughtered millions using methods of torture savage enough to make Hitler’s Nazis look like a group of bumbling grade-schoolers. And all this was done in the name of the meek and gentle Jesus! They did it while claiming to be His church.

Fortunately, this awful state of things did not last. Just as the Bible predicted (see Revelation 13), the persecuting power received a “deadly wound” (verse 3).

When the Bible was restored to the common people of Europe and they could read the words of Jesus for themselves, a great revolution

All religious teachers and writers should be tested by the Word of God.

took place in the church. All Europe was thrown into distress as the church of the Dark Ages used every evil means to hold onto power. Nevertheless, the light of God’s Word was even more powerful.

Many predicted that the church of the Dark Ages was finished. When the United States arrived with its civil and religious freedom, this church plotted and pleaded for its overthrow. But instead, America grew to be the superpower of the world. Meanwhile, light from the Bible continued to shine its power all over the world and into every tribe, language and nation.

Phase 3: The Resurrected Rebellion

Yet, strangely, the Bible predicted another change. The third and final phase of this “wolf in sheep’s clothing” saga would be played out in the time of the end.

The Bible says, “And his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying ‘Who

is like the beast?’” (Rev. 13:3-4).

Believe it or not, this terrible depiction of the Dark Ages is resurrected in the age of enlightenment! And why? The answer is very simple—because people reject the authority of Scripture.

You don’t have to lock up the Bible in a monastery basement in order to take it from the people. You just have to get them to substitute science or anything else as a new authority. As the devil is currently proving, you can get darkness all over again—just by taking away the real light.

This final scene in the great controversy—that ages-long battle between Christ and Satan—is taking place right now, in front of your very eyes. And for this battle, the devil has planned one grand finale. His goal: to fool the world more completely than ever, one last

time. And he will accomplish his deception while making the world believe he is delivering them into the hands of Jesus! “They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.” (Matt. 7:15, NIV).

That word *ferocious* is chilling. It means “extremely fierce and savage.” This is scary and frightful stuff. No wonder Jesus said to “watch and pray.” (Matt. 26:41).

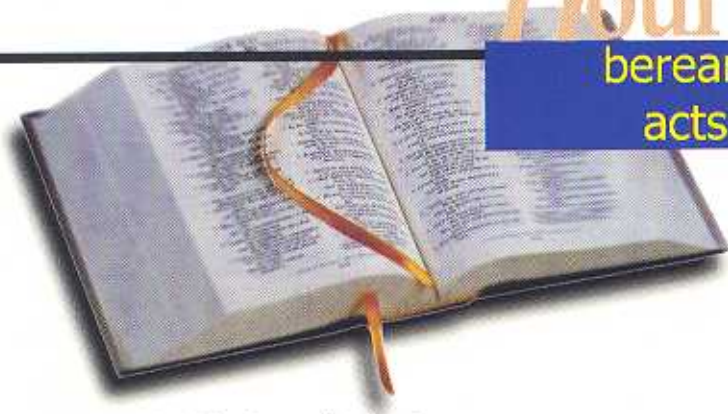
UNMASKING THE WOLF

By now you may be asking how, as a sheep, you can tell the difference between a real sheep and a wolf in sheep’s clothing. Well, here is a big clue. A wolf cannot “baa” like a sheep. It can only howl. Wolves howl. Sheep “baa.” You can tell the difference by the voice.

The Lamb of God speaks to us through His Word. All religious teachers and writers should be tested by the Word of God. Forget what church they belong to. Just listen to their voice. Look beyond their talents and articulate skills. Instead, ask the question, Does the Bible support what they teach? If their teachings are not supported by the Bible, they are not sheep—no matter how nice and woolly they look. ❧

Hour Times

berean corner acts 17:11



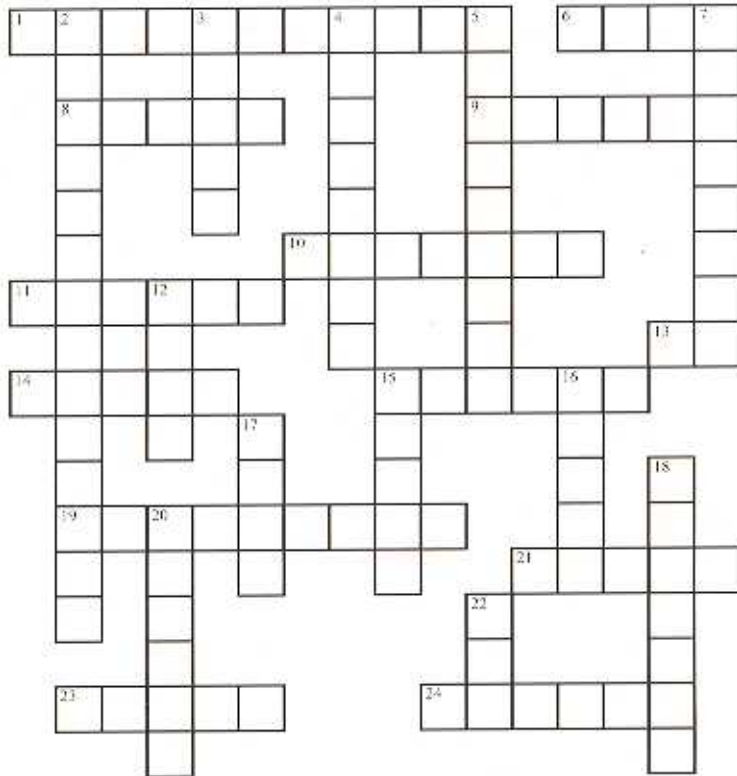
Use King James Version for answers.

Across

1. "All Scripture is given by _____ of God" (2 Timothy 3:16)
6. King who angered the Lord more than all before him (1 Kings 16:33)
8. "I am the _____ of life" (John 6:35)
9. "Many are called but few are _____" (Matthew 22:14)
10. "Be ye doers of the Word and not _____ only" (James 1:22)
11. A donkey spoke to this man (Numbers 22:28)
13. First word of the Bible (Genesis 1:1)
14. Rolled the stone from Jesus' tomb (Matthew 28:2)
15. An Israelite next in power to Pharaoh (Genesis 41:40-41)
19. Climbed a tree to see Jesus (Luke 19:2-4)
21. "The _____ shall make you free" (John 8:32)
23. "Go ye therefore, and _____ all nations" (Matthew 28:19)
24. River John used for baptisms (Matthew 3:1-6)

Down

2. The king, who ate grass (Daniel 4:33)
3. Abraham's son by Sarah (Genesis 21:3)
4. Total number of times Israelites marched around Jericho (Joshua 6:1-4)
5. Pharisee who came to Jesus by night (John 3:1-2)
7. Rachel died at his birth (Genesis 35:17-19)
12. First murder victim (Genesis 4:8)
15. He was named by an angel before His birth (Matthew 1:20-21)
16. He said, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29)
17. A disciple who was also one of the "sons of thunder" (Mark 3:17)
18. Jesus said, "Without me ye can do _____" (John 15:5)
20. Land promised to Abram by God (Genesis 12:5-7)
22. Number of spies who returned from Canaan whom God did not destroy (Numbers 14:36-38)



Study to show thyself approved . . . rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim. 2:15.

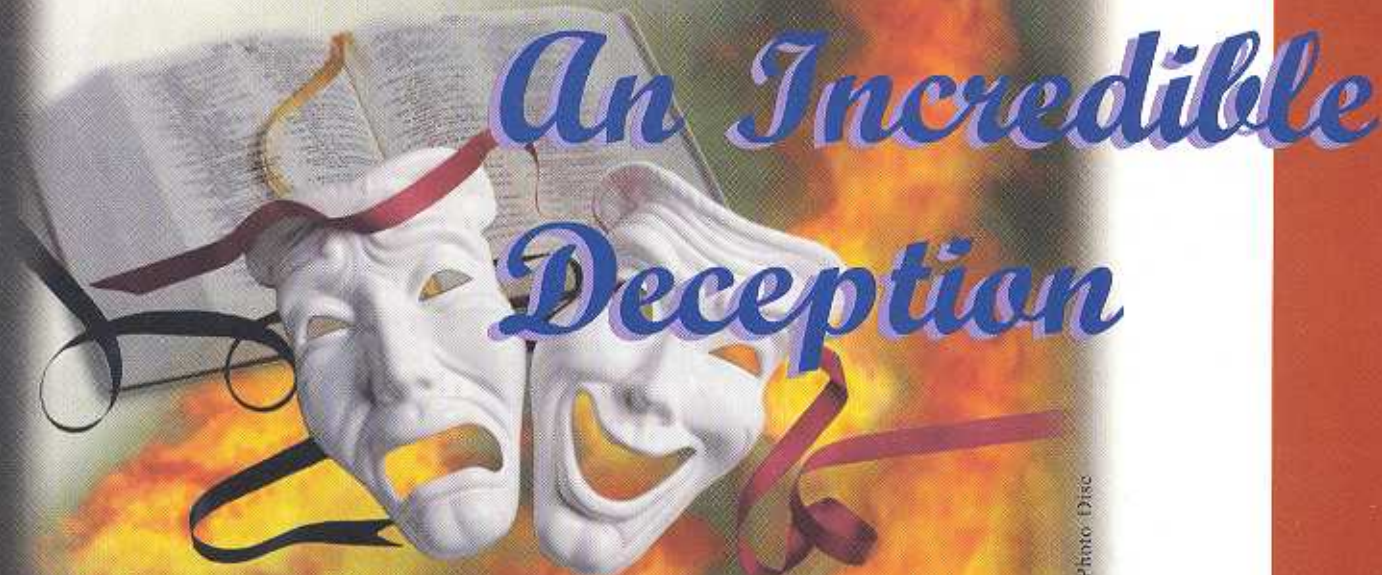
Answers

1. Holy Spirit 2. Nebuchadnezzar 3. Isaac 4. 12 5. Nicodemus 6. Ahab 7. Adam 8. Bread of life 9. Few 10. Hearers 11. Balaam 12. Abel 13. In the beginning 14. The stone 15. Joseph 16. Jesus 17. Thomas 18. Nothing 19. Zebedee 20. The Promised Land 21. Truth 22. 12 23. Preach the Gospel 24. Jordan

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An Incredible Deception

Photo: by Photo Disc

By Loren Nelson

The evening of October 30, 1936, began quietly in New York City. At 8:00 PM, 32 million people tuned into *Charlie McCarthy*, one of the prime-time radio programs of the day. Unfortunately, a "less than compelling" singer soon took the mike. Hordes of disenchanted listeners, the obvious predecessors of today's channel-surfers, quickly turned the dial—finding and settling in for what they thought was a program of dance music. Suddenly, the broadcast was interrupted by a series of news bulletins; "*A large meteor has impacted New Jersey near Grover's Mill!*" "*The object has turned out not to be a meteor, but a metal cylinder!*" "*The cylinder has opened and Martians, driving huge fighting machines, have emerged! And they are advancing on New York City!*"

Within thirty minutes the voice of a radio reporter, supposedly covering the event from a window in Manhattan, told of a gas attack on the city: "*Smoke is coming out...black smoke, drifting over the city. People in the streets see it now. They're running toward the East River... thousands of them, dropping like rats. Now the smoke's spreading faster. It's reached Times Square. People are trying to run away from it, but it's no use. They're falling like flies. Now the smoke's crossing Sixth Avenue...Fifth Avenue...one hundred yards away...it's fifty feet...*"

Then the reporter stopped talking. There was silence for a few seconds. Then the plaintive cry of a ham radio operator: "*Isn't there anyone on the air? Isn't there anyone?*"

Thousands of people listening to the broadcast panicked. Some ran into the streets, ready

to evacuate the city. Others called to warn relatives or dialed the police. The CBS switchboard was jammed with calls, while *The New York Times* alone received nearly 900 inquiries. In Newark, New Jersey, dozens of families rushed out into the street with wet handkerchiefs and towels over their faces ready to flee from the killing smoke described on the radio.

Evening worship services in some churches were interrupted by the news. A few turned into "end of the world" prayer meetings. At St. Michael's Hospital in Newark fifteen people were treated for shock and hysteria, a scene repeated throughout New York-area medical facilities. Some people claimed that the radio show had nearly given them a heart attack.

Because the broadcast had been carried throughout the country, the effect was nationwide. Listeners in western states, though not fearing immediate danger themselves, called relatives and friends back east who had not heard the program. This further fueled the panic.

Caught up in the mass pandemonium of the occasion, not many listeners were left to hear what came next on the radio; an announcement that they had been listening to a program produced by Orson Welles based on the book *War of the Worlds* by H. G. Wells!

It turned out that what Orson Welles planned as a pre-Halloween spoof deceived much of the nation. Though Welles took care to announce repeatedly that his broadcast was only a dramati-

Some people claimed that the radio show had nearly given them a heart attack.

zation, he inadvertently managed to fool, at least temporarily, millions of American citizens.

It's easy to chuckle at the *War of the Worlds* scenario today. Most of us like to think we would not be so easily fooled. Yet a disturbing question remains: If Welles, a mere mortal with the aid of the media, was able to so totally spoof his listening audience, what could a well-armed, more sinister power accomplish? If Orson Welles, with his limited arsenal of actors, could send thousands and even millions of Americans into near-pandemonium, what could an angry and diabolical devil do?

A WORLDWIDE DECEPTION?

We don't have far to look for an answer. The Bible tells us that in these last days the devil will indeed foist a massive, incredible and worldwide deception on this world—a deception so powerful, so convincing, that if it were possible, it would deceive “even the elect.” (Mark 13:22).

The Bible tells us that in these last days the devil will indeed foist a massive, incredible and worldwide deception on this world.

Fortunately, God has been faithful to forewarn Christians of the danger. Careful students of His Word will find ample information about the devil's grand deceptions, both present and past. Guidelines of “things to watch out for” are given especially in the books of Daniel and Revelation, two prophetic books that reveal much of what will happen in these last days.

But wait. Before one can understand what these books are saying about this world's present or future, one must also understand what has been foretold and fulfilled in the past. With this in mind, and in the interest of avoiding the last great deception that will soon spoof the entire world, let's turn to the book of Daniel.

The book of Daniel—a book of the Bible that Jesus told his disciples to understand and study—speaks extensively of both a great, worldwide deception and the power behind it. This incred-

ible book of the Bible is uncanny in its accuracy in predicting history from ancient Babylon to our own time, and reaching into the future.

A LANGUAGE OF SYMBOLS

In the book of Daniel, God used symbolism (word pictures) to paint the scenes of human history. God's use of symbols in prophecy is consistent. He doesn't use a symbol in one place and then change its meaning in another place. Here is a scriptural guide to a few common prophetic terms:

1. **Beast = kingdom**

“The four great beasts are four kingdoms.” (Dan. 7:17, NIV).

“The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom.” (Dan. 7:23, NASB).

2. **Sea = people**

“The waters you saw...are peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages.” (Rev. 17:15, NIV).

3. **Wind = wars, strife and false doctrines**

“Holding the four winds” (thus delaying war and strife; Rev. 7:1).

“Against Elam I will bring the four winds” (describing war against Elam; Jer. 49:36, NKJV).

FOUR PARALLEL LINES

There are four parallel lines of prophecy in the book of Daniel: Daniel 2, 7, 8-9 and 10-12. By parallel lines, we mean prophecies that cover the same periods and events. However, each prophecy adds or fills in some details that the others may not have included.

DANIEL 2

Daniel 2, which tells the story of Nebuchadnezzar and his four-metal image, covers the history of the world from 605 B.C. to the return of Jesus. We know the parts of the image stood for various nations because Daniel said so in his interpretation:

Head of gold = Babylon

Chest and arms of silver = Media-Persia

Belly and thighs of bronze = Greece

Legs of iron = Rome

Feet (with 10 toes) of iron and clay = kingdoms of Europe

Stone = God's kingdom set up at the return of Jesus

DANIEL 7

In this chapter, Daniel saw the four winds of heaven stirring up a windswept sea. Four fierce and ferocious beasts came up out of the sea in succession.

Using the chart given earlier, which tells what the prophetic symbols of the sea, beasts and wind mean, we can understand that four kingdoms would come to power by war and fall in turn by war and strife. The four beasts represent the four universal kingdoms, the same kingdoms that are represented by the metallic image.

Babylon: The lion with eagle's wings represents Babylon. As gold is considered the finest of metals, the lion is the king of beasts. The eagle is the Lord of the air. Ancient Babylon was a mighty empire. Jeremiah uses the imagery of the lion from the North to describe Babylon's impending destruction upon Judah. Archeologists have found pictures of winged lions on the excavated remains of Babylon's walls. At the entrance of the Ishtar gate are two figures of lions with eagle's wings and the head of Nebuchadnezzar. These artifacts can be seen in the Pergamom Museum in Berlin. So, with such accuracy, God describes the kingdom of Babylon.

Media-Persia: The second beast—the bear—represents Media-Persia. The three ribs in its mouth no doubt represent the three great conquests that brought Media-Persia to power—Egypt, Lydia and, finally, Babylon. This bear was raised up on one side. History records that at first the Medes and Persians ruled jointly, but later the Persians rose to greater power.

Greece: The third beast was a leopard with four wings on its back. Habakkuk 1:6-8 uses the imagery of the swiftness of leopards that fly like an eagle to show swiftness in war. The Greeks, under Alexander the Great, literally flew from conquest to conquest and quickly conquered the world. Daniel also states that this leopard beast had four heads. Just as fast as he came to power, Alexander the Great died of consumption caused by drunkenness. After his death at the young age of 33, Alexander's kingdom was divided between his four generals—Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and Seleucus.

Rome: The fourth beast was dreadful and terrible. In fact, this nondescript beast is better described by John the

Revelator: "Behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads." (Rev. 12:3, NKJV). The fourth kingdom that followed the Greek Empire was Pagan Rome. Pagan Rome was a dreadful kingdom. It was a cruel, crushing power that ruled for five centuries beginning in 168 B.C. In Daniel 2:40, Rome was described as iron that "crush[es] all the others." This fourth beast also had ten horns. Daniel 7:24 says, "The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise." These were the original ten divisions of Europe that laid the foundation of our modern European nations.

SOME NEW INFORMATION

In Daniel 7:8, something new is introduced. Daniel says "I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words." (Dan. 7:8, NKJV). "The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings." (Dan. 7:24, NKJV).

Since the whole Daniel 7 prophecy is parallel to Daniel 2, this is additional information about the original prophecy, just as the four beasts gave us additional information about the kingdoms of the metallic image.

But who is this little horn power? Logically, we know it is a power that comes up as the fourth power comes to an end. The following points will help us to identify it:

1. It came up among the ten horns (Dan. 7:8, 20, 24). That is, it would arise out of the head of the fourth beast, which is undoubtedly the Roman Empire.

2. It would arise after the ten horns (Dan. 7:24). This means it would arise after Rome fell in A.D. 476.

3. It was diverse from the former (that is the ten kings). Diverse means different in character. The ten were political organizations only. This little horn would derive its power from a different source. Through religion, it would claim godlike authority.

4. Three of the ten kingdoms

would be displaced by its rise to power (Dan. 7:8, 20, 24). "He shall subdue three kings" (verse 24, NKJV).

5. The little horn would have "eyes like the eyes of a man" (Dan. 7:8; also see verse 20, NKJV). Throughout the Bible, eyes are a symbol of divine intelligence. This horn has "eyes," not of God, but of man. The little horn power is guided by *human* intelligence, leadership and authority. With a man as leader, it usurps God's leadership.

6. It would have a mouth that would "speak great words against the

God's people were persecuted for reading their Bibles and sharing their faith.

most High" (Dan. 7:25). The little horn power would speak great, or pompous, things and would speak out against the most High—against God. According to Revelation 13:5, NKJV, "he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months." According to Luke 5:21, blasphemy is claiming to be able to forgive sin.

7. It would last for a "time and times and the dividing of times" (Dan. 7:25). Revelation 12:14 uses similar terminology to define the period of persecution of God's church as symbolized by a woman—"time and times and half a time." Revelation 12:6 describes this persecution period as 1260 days, while Revelation 13:5 describes this period as 42 months.

In Ezekiel 4:4-6, God defined that in prophetic interpretations He would use the day-for-a-year principle. Understanding that a month in the Bible is based upon Lunar reckoning (1 month = 29.56 days, rounded to 30 days), and given the above references, we see that:

Time = 1 year = 12 months = 360 days = 360 years

Times = 2 years = 24 months = 720 days = 720 years

1/2 time = 1/2 year = 6 months = 180 days = 180 years

Time, times, and a half = 3 1/2 years = 42 months = 1260 days = 1260 years

Thus, the little horn power would have dominion and persecute God's

saints (wear out the saints—see Daniel 7:25) for 1260 years. During the period we call the Dark Ages, God's people were persecuted for reading their Bibles and sharing their faith. They were persecuted because they were faithful to the Bible and accepted its authority only as a final rule in their lives.

8. It would "think to change times and laws" (Dan. 7:25). We have seen that the little horn power would be different from the rest of the preceding powers—i.e., it would be both a political and a religious power.

In the context of speaking great things against God and of persecuting the saints of God, it would also think to change "times and laws" (of

God). Of course, the cornerstone laws of God are the Ten Commandments, and there is *ONLY ONE* of the Ten Commandments that deals with time. (See Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-12 for the fourth commandment.)

9. It would receive its "power, his throne and great authority" from pagan Rome (Rev. 13:1, 2, NKJV): "Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority." According to Revelation 13:2—the dragon gave pagan Rome "his power, his throne, and great authority."

Honest student of the Scriptures, do you see what Satan has unleashed on the world? Can you think of a religious power that:

- combines religious with political power,
- places human traditions and intelligence above the plain Word of God,
- speaks "great things"—claiming to have the power to forgive sins and act as God Himself upon this earth,
- has tried to change God's holy Ten Commandments and
- received its power, throne and authority from Rome? ❧



Divine Help

By Vicki B. Griffin, Ph.D., MACN, Author, Lecturer, Researcher

DO YOU EVER GET "THAT EMPTY FEELING"?

When you go to work or to the shopping center, have you noticed the expression on most people's faces? Notwithstanding the fact that we have more material goods and conveniences than ever before, we see more and more tension, fatigue, sadness and discouragement etched on the countenances of people than even just a decade ago. And despite strobe-light tennis shoes, video games galore, closets bulging with designer clothes and the latest toys, and fast food on every corner, children and youth are more stressed and discontented than ever. It has been said that most people live quiet lives of despair. There seems to be an emptiness in the lives of

most people that material things just can't fill. Perhaps the wise man summed it up best when he said: "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. . . . All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled." Eccl. 5:10; 6:7.

AMERICA'S EMOTIONAL HEALTH IN JEOPARDY

A 1990 Gallup poll revealed that more than 36 percent of Americans live with chronic feelings of loneliness. And according to a recent Princeton University Research Associates survey, at least two-thirds of Americans feel "stressed-out" at least once a week. Depression, which is often associated with chronic stress, is a major problem in the United States for both young and old. Nearly 15 million Americans will suffer clinical depression each year. Stress, loneliness and related depression can have some serious health consequences, ranging from higher rates of heart attack, high blood pressure, osteoporosis and cancer, to lowered immune function and resistance to infectious diseases, and even increased incidence of dental disease! Infants of depressed mothers tend to have reduced activity in certain areas of the brain (the left frontal lobe in particular), which can cause academic, social and attention problems later in life. Clearly, there is a void in the lives of millions—and an urgent need for that void to be filled.

THERE IS A VOID THAT ONLY GOD CAN FILL

People try to fill their lives with all manner of inventions, but still come up empty. "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions." Eccl. 7:29. "The way of man is froward and strange." Prov. 21:8. We were made upright, but sin has corrupted us. But, thankfully, our Creator and Savior, Jesus Christ, has placed a desire in every human heart for righteousness. "That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." John 1:9. There is a void in each one of us that only God can fill. Would you like to have that void filled? When we surrender our lives to Him, we can have peace, contentment and even joy in an unstable, inconsistent world. "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:7.

Fast Facts

- The aging of connective tissue involves the development of cross-links between protein molecules in collagen. The creation of these cross-links is markedly accelerated in the presence of sugars such as glucose, fructose and sucrose. Foods rich in vitamins C and E are all effective in reducing the development of sugar-induced cross-links. **Age and Aging, 1994 July.**
- A diet high in vegetables, as well as in fruits and vegetables containing high amounts of beta-carotene and lycopene, are protective against diabetes and aid in blood glucose control. Such foods include yellow, red, and orange fruits and vegetables. **American Journal of Epidemiology, 1999;149.**
- The average American consumes 547 cans of soda pop per year, except in the South, where it is 643 per person per year. **Beverage Marketing Corp.**

YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL

Those who have totally surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ are the happiest people in the world. Even the scientific literature bears this out. One medical study of elderly Christians stated: "We conclude that faith in God...is strongly associated with life satisfaction." Later on in this series we will see that trust in God, faith and prayer are significant boons to mental as well as physical health, and can positively impact health outcomes for serious, debilitating and chronic illnesses. Someone once said, "He that puts his trust in God is on the highway to health." When you have simple and abiding trust in a Savior who will love you personally, lead you wisely, and supply your needs according to His plan, you have it all. It's just that simple. "Happy [contented] is the man who takes refuge in Him." Ps. 34:8, RSV.

Those who have totally surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ are the happiest people in the world.

HOW DO I GET THAT TRUST?

Jesus said, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest [contentment] unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light. Matt. 11:28-30. There is no heavier burden than the burden of sin and selfishness. Are you tired of your broken promises, bad habits and unhappiness? Jesus says, "Come. Give me your burden of sin. I will give you My righteousness in

return." But it doesn't stop there. The Scripture says, "Learn of Me." How do we grow in faith and trust? "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Rom. 10:17. The Owner's Manual is God's own Book, filled with wisdom, instruction and power, to all who take the first step—"Come." Won't you give yourself to Him, talk to Him and take time in that Book every day? It's the highway to health, the solution to all that perplexes and annoys, the answer to the great void in every human heart. ✠

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recipes

PICNIC SALSA

Ingredients:

- 1 Qt Tomatoes, chopped, with juice
- 1 C Tomato sauce
- 1 C Green onions, diced
- 2-3 Cloves Garlic, crushed
- 1 Bell pepper, medium, diced
- 1 Cucumber, diced (remove seeds)
- 1 Celery stalk, diced
- 3 Tb Cilantro, fresh, chopped
- 1/4 C Lemon juice
- 1 1/2 tsp Salt

Directions:

- Mix ALL ingredients in a bowl and let chill.
- DO NOT cook!
- Best the next day.

Serving Suggestions:

- This salsa is cool and filled with garden flavor.
- Delicious in a burrito with shredded lettuce or savoy cabbage and mayonnaise or hummus.
- Try a spoonful over hot black or chili beans, or stuffed in a veggie pocket with raw fresh veggies.



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When a Lamb Becomes a Dragon

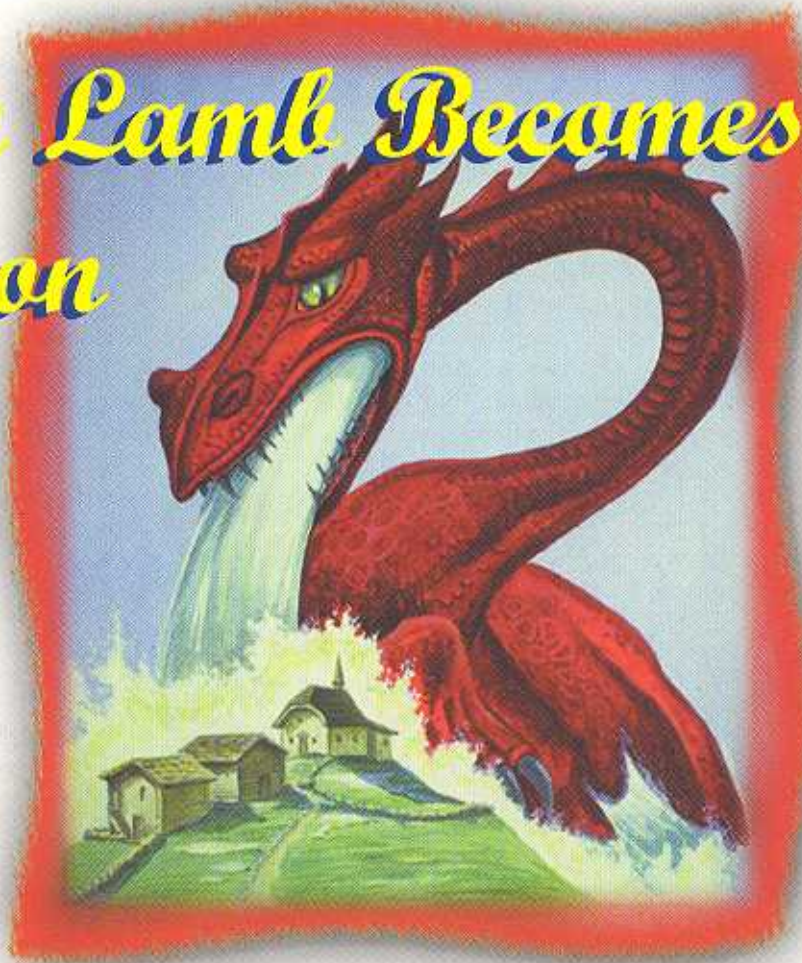


Illustration by Joe Marnscale

By Cari Haus

When most people think of a lamb, a dragon isn't one of the images that come immediately to mind. After all, dragons are cruel and headstrong, fearful, fire-breathing and monsterlike beasts. In contrast, lambs are soft, woolly, frisky, innocent and badly in need of a shepherd.

So when the Bible adds a dragonlike lamb to its arsenal of prophetic animals, it sounds

The Bible tells us that Christianity would be corrupted from the inside.

like a very strange beast indeed. In the book of Daniel, God uses a lion, a leopard, a bear and a nearly indescribable (though truly terrible) beast to

represent the kingdoms of Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece and Rome.

A "SUPERPOWER"

With flashbacks to ancient Rome, Revelation 13 pictures an end-time lamblike beast becoming the world's superpower. Mysteriously, it has horns like a lamb but the voice of a dragon. How can we know who this lamblike beast is?

The Bible gives four clear characteristics we can rely on in our efforts to identify this dragon-from-a-lamb:

Characteristic 1: It arises about the time the

first beast suffers a "deadly wound." (Rev. 13:3, 11).

The Bible tells us that Christianity would be corrupted from the inside. This corrupted Christianity would reign supreme for forty-two prophetic months, or 1260 days. According to Ezekiel 4:6, a day stands for a year in symbolic prophecy. History shows that the Church received civil and religious power from the Roman emperor in A.D. 538. Then, 1260 years later, in 1798, a "deadly wound" was indeed inflicted on the medieval church when its civil power was taken away. It was Napoleon who inflicted this wound. Desiring to free France from a domineering clergy, the French general marched his armies right into Rome, took the pope captive and imprisoned him in France.

The scholars of Napoleon's day thought the wound was mortal—the papacy would never rise again. But the Bible had a different prediction: "And his deadly wound was healed; and all the world wondered after the beast" (Rev. 13:3). And that healing process has continued into the 1990s, for we can see the papacy assuming worldwide power and influence. We know from the Bible that this lamblike nation would have to rise to power sometime around 1798 in order to be ready for the healing of the deadly wound.

Characteristic 2: It comes up out of the earth.

Unlike the first beast of Revelation 13 and the beasts of Daniel 7, which come up out of

the sea, the lamblike power comes up out of the earth. Now, if the sea stands for many people in Bible prophecy (Revelation 17:15 tells us that the sea stands for "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues"), what does the earth represent? In contrast to water, the earth would represent a sparsely populated area. Notice also that the other "beasts" gained their dominion by conquering other populated countries. However, this lamblike power "grows up" differently. The wilderness would provide opportunity to grow by exploration, colonization and development.

Characteristic 3: It has two horns like a lamb.

The horns were lamblike because the creature had lamblike qualities. Everywhere else in Revelation the Lamb refers to Christ. This power

was a Christlike power, desiring peace. (See John 1:29 and 1 Peter 1:19.) The New World settlers first came in search of relief from religious persecution. God providentially provided a way for them to form a government based on the principles of freedom.

Horns in the Bible represent power. What is the power symbolized by the lamblike horns? For the first time in history the golden rule of Jesus was applied to government. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (see Matthew 7:12) became the foundation on which religious and civil freedom was built. In the New World, church and state were separated and given freedom.

And the result is unbelievable prosperity. This lamblike power has no kingly power for it has no crowns. The two lamblike horns are excellent symbols of the New World's twin powers—civil and religious freedom.

Characteristic 4: It becomes very powerful.

Evidently, this beast with lamblike horns has a change in personality because Revelation 13:11 says it "spake as a dragon." In other words, it is very powerful, wielding an enormous amount of worldwide influence. This end-time superpower will play a key role in giving leadership to the formation of Babylon. Babylon will be a worldwide religious movement that will lead the world to worship the Antichrist.

This is a story that starts with joy and ends in tears. It begins in hope and ends in tragedy. This beast begins life with lamblike qualities but ends up being deceived by the dragon. Its lamblike exterior makes it all the more

influential when it speaks like a dragon.

A DRAGON IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

The Bible teaches that one day our freedoms will be eroded. "And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast [corrupted medieval Christianity] before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed." (Rev. 13:12).

The Bible says in verse 15 that "he [the lamblike beast] had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."

An image is a likeness. There would be a likeness to the first beast.

The Bible teaches that one day our freedoms will be eroded.

In other words, this lamblike beast becomes corrupted like the first beast.

Medieval Christianity became corrupted because it left the simple purity of the early church. The first beast illustrates what happens when there is no separation between church and state. In the end of time something similar happens.

When Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the University of Wittenberg, a great deal of simple Bible purity was restored to the church. This reformation gave birth to the New World with its civil and religious freedom. These principles have produced a superpower at which the whole world marvels. When misguided leaders overthrow the great principle of church-state separation, the unthinkable will happen. What is the unthinkable? Well, it was unthinkable that a corrupted medieval church would succeed the lamblike early church—it would persecute fellow believers for simply wanting to follow the Bible. The medieval church shed the blood of millions.

Could it be that the land of the free and the home of the brave, the land of the pilgrims, the land where fathers and mothers founded a place of religious freedom for their children, would actually lead the world to persecute people for simply following the Bible? Would that land that has championed religious freedom around the world actually become so corrupted that it would influence the world to fulfill Revelation's prophecy of the mark of the beast?

To know what the image of the beast will be like we need only recall what the beast was like during the heyday of its power. The book of Revelation demonstrates that history will repeat itself! This brave "New World" will revert back to the practices of the "Old World," trampling on the rights of people's consciences.

The Bible predicts that in the last days there will be a union of church and state, and persecution will follow. Unfortunately, this lamblike power undergoes a dramatic change in disposition.

Enraptured with the charms of the medieval church, it becomes like her. Once again state and church are mingled. The result is predictable. The bloody stake of persecution is once more erected. An image of the Dark Ages church is formed. Enforcing the mark of the beast becomes a reality. Millions will face economic boycotts and even death!

GOD'S TRUTH FOR THIS TIME

This is a serious and sober time. The struggle between Bible truth and twisted error has raged for centuries. Someday it will come to a head. Billions of people will be faced with the final test. Will the Bible be trusted or the "wise" men of Babylon? Each of us needs to make a commitment to trust the Word of God.

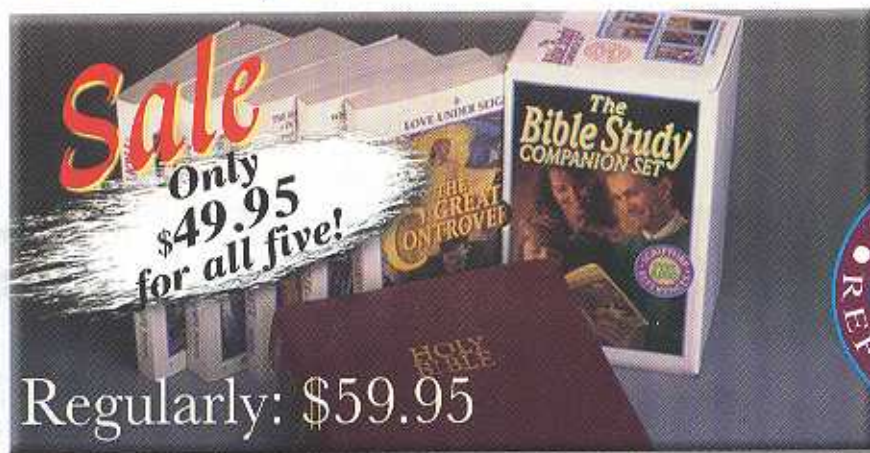
A Savior who died for us gave us the Bible. His precious blood will not be shed in vain. Millions will resist this end-time Babylon with all their power. They are already described in Revelation as those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. (See Revelation 14:12.) They trust the Lord Jesus alone for salvation. Because of their faith, they obey Him. Yes, the angel of mercy is still hovering over planet earth.

There is still time, though not much, for God's message of truth to burn its way deep within our hearts. Dear reader, this is no time to slack off, debate or sit still. "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:2). As justice lingered at Abraham's tent before making its way to Sodom, so it lingers now over planet Earth. As angels knocked at the door of Lot, so mercy now knocks at our door. But not forever. And so we have a choice to make.

It was Joshua who challenged Israel: "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." (Joshua 24:15). This is the choice. Will we trust Jesus and follow the Bible's instructions? Or will we say we trust Jesus and yet follow people's instructions? Subtle? Absolutely! But it is a choice between eternal life and eternal death. ❧

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