

# Anti-Christ Persecution

*Book of Revelation*

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**Bible Text:** Revelation 13:1-10

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I would like to have you look with me again in Revelation chapter 13. Last time I read down through here to show you the connection with chapter 12, but I want to come back now and really kind of look at this carefully together prayerfully verse by verse.

What we have described in Revelation 13 in connection with Revelation 12 is Satan's helpers, his agents, those instruments or tools that are at his disposal as the enemy of Christ and uses in his attack upon the Church.

Now without Christ we would have great reason to fear. Any thought of Satan being unleashed on any of God's creatures should cause us to tremble without a mediator. If he felled man in his best state, which he did in Adam, who are we to think now in a fallen state that we could ever withstand him? And I think it is the height of ludicrousness for people today to gather and to chant and clap and sing and writhe and pray, so-called, to defeat Satan, treating him as if he were their equal. He is much more powerful than any human could ever be, particularly in the fallen state. If he, as I said, fell down he certainly we are no match for him.

But the reason we sang the hymns before we began, it is a reminder that we have a great protector. We have in the Lord Jesus Christ one that Satan went up against and was dealt a death blow. He tried our Lord in every way and as I mentioned before being a finite creature, which Satan is, he is not infinite, being limited in knowledge even though all powerful, limited in power, he can only do what God gives him the authority to do. And of God's purposes there are times and seasons as you look back over the history of the Church that God has authorized Satan to persecute the Church.

You say, "Well, what good would that be?"

Well, persecution has a way of sorting out the wheat from the chaff. And those that are there merely by profession they go the way of Satan. It is his way of coming in and taking out his own. But those that are the Lord's, he does keep and he ever watches over them.

So here is a description here. And we are really going to have to break this down because over the next couple of chapters this is the theme. The dragon that we saw in chapter 12 now being the motivator, the one who influences powers on earth against the Church. And we are going to see that there are three primary agents employed by Satan and that is described here by different beasts. The first one we are going to look at tonight and that is really the title of the message. It has to do with satanic persecution. Does Satan use persecution to attack the Church? And the answer is yes. Just reading very simply what we are going to read here in verses one through 10. But it is not the only way.

You notice in verse 11 John says:

“And I behold another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.”<sup>1</sup>

One is more monstrous, the one coming up out of the sea that we see here in verses one through 10. And that is designed to describe persecution. But this other has a form of Christ. When it says there he had two horns like a lamb. You think of a lamb has an appearance of truth and yet spake as a dragon. So I believe here we have satanic religion. It has to do with how Satan deceives many through even people that read and hold the Bible that we hold. It appears to be Christ like, like the two horns of the lamb and yet it speaks as a dragon. Satan is in it.

And then the other agent we see over in chapter 14 and verse eight describe through the nation Babylon where it says:

“Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”<sup>2</sup>

Satanic seduction when you think of a harlot, think of fornication, talk about people being seduced into error and condemnation. It is subtle and those that have not the Spirit of God are easily drawn aside.

So that kind of lays out the outline a little bit of where we are headed. But let's read here in verses one through 10 for our Scripture this evening.

Verse one of chapter 13, Revelation.

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 13:11.

<sup>2</sup> Revelation 14:8.

the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.<sup>3</sup>

This is something we continue to see, this time period, again, which I remind you, we don't need to go back to it, but it is the last part of Daniel nine, that last week where Christ was cut off in the middle of the week and we are currently in that final portion of the week sometimes described as three and a half years, sometimes described as forty and two months, sometimes described as a time, times and a half a time.

You know, the week began, or in the middle of the week Christ was cut off. So we know this week is here. It is not something future.

Verse six.

And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.<sup>4</sup>

So we are going to stop there and just come back and try to break this down verse by verse.

I recognize that these are difficult portions of Scripture, but I believe, given the key that I have given you as far as understanding the book of Revelation, that this has to do with the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ. And at the time that John was directed to write these inspired words, there was severe persecution. And so much of what he describes is symbolic of the type of government, they type of authority that was being exercised in his day against the Church. But I would remind you that it is symbolic to let us know that it really typifies any sort of antichrist spirit that we read about even in 2 Thessalonians two, that we can expect before Christ comes again.

I believe there is a false, very strong false view among so-called evangelicals today that somehow the situation in the world is going to get better and better before Christ comes again and you talk to different ones. They are always praying for revival. They are always talking about how the Lord is working here and the Lord is working there. And

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<sup>3</sup> Revelation 13:1-5.

<sup>4</sup> Revelation 13:6-10.

they give credit to the Lord as it being the Lord's work and it is a spirit that has taken over the world.

There is... right now I don't know of any greater time in history when there have been more what are called missionaries being sent out from congregations around the world. You cannot land hardly in any country but where there is some sort of so-called evangelical work there. But when you listen to the message, when you hear what is being preached, it is a message of heaven. It is a message mixed with works. It is a message that they use the word grace, redemption, Christ, et cetera, but it is a beast that has people deceived and they believe it is the Lord's work, but when you weigh it in according to Scripture it is like one preacher said, "You could probably pull the plug on 99.9 percent of it and it wouldn't affect the work of God one whit where God is working and through his gospel."

But I believe that is what is being described here in these chapters, that there... that any that oppose what we would call formal religion, any that would take a stand against it can expect the wrath of Satan. They can expect the heat.

And so it is what we have here. John here in verse one notices that the dragon goes to the seashore to summon help. You see:

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy."<sup>5</sup>

And so we can see that in verse two very clearly it says:

"...the dragon gave him his power and his seat and great authority."<sup>6</sup>

We know that there is no power but comes from God. So we have to understand first and second causes. God is the first cause. He is the one that has ordained this. But he is authorizing Satan to empower this beast.

There are some contrasts between this beast here in verses one through 10 and the one we are going to see in verse 11. This one comes up out of the sea. You notice the one in verse 11 comes up out of the earth.

You know, the sea, that which emerges up out of the water it is gradual. This is the part that I want you to see here. He says, first of all, rising up out of the sea. The idea is it doesn't happen all at once. This power and authority is not given it at one time.

"...having seven heads and ten horns..."<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Revelation 13:1.

<sup>6</sup> Revelation 13:2.

<sup>7</sup> Revelation 13:1.

That is the first thing he saw. And then first the horns appeared, next the heads. And then, thirdly, the body where it is described down there in verse two.

So, if you will, a progression over time. Now as I saw... I mentioned last time this beast that John sees here is not new. When you think of a leopard that is described there, large, fierce. We are talking about something fierce. And that is what persecution is. That is why it is being described this way.

When you go back and, again, we have to think back in terms of history here when John was writing this. The type of persecution that Nero at the time was bringing against the Christians, crucifying them, lighting, dipping them in oil and lighting them on fire and using them for torches while he sat below at his banquets and ate, throwing them to the lions. I mean, every possible means of torture.

So, you know, I believe the Lord is directing John to see just how fierce this persecution would be. I would encourage you to go back, even though it is difficult. Read the book called *The Martyrs of the Catacombs* and find out how people had to live in caves for their lives, those that identified with the Lord Jesus Christ and the gospel at the time.

John himself facing very real persecution on the Isle of Patmos and history records that he himself died by being dipped in hot oil. That is how he died.

Such was the hatred of this government, the Roman government against the Lord's people. Caesar himself requiring people to bow to him and own him as Lord and Savior. The very words that were reserved for Christ alone he would force people to pronounce, bow the knee and pronounce to him and if not they were persecuted. They were tortured to death.

So very real, I believe, historic accomplishment already in what we see here when, you know, the sea... The thing I want you to see... And when you think of these other things, for example it says:

“...his feet were as the feet of a bear...”<sup>8</sup>

Think of a bear robbed of his whelps or her. The... think of Satan. We don't realize, I believe, completely just how fierce an enemy Satan is of Christ. And as we saw in the last chapter when he was cast down on earth, he was angry. You think about his defeat at Calvary. He has been bound, but he has not been condemned. He is... the Lord has given him, as we read here in this chapter 13, authority over nations.

Look at verse seven.

“And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Revelation 13:2.

<sup>9</sup> Revelation 13:7.

That was the Church on earth. And notice it was given him authority. You know, who gave him that authority, but God himself?

But also look at this.

“...and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.”<sup>10</sup>

Ok? So this is why I say in this period between Christ’s first coming and second coming we can expect persecution. Just because there is a lull, perhaps, right now doesn’t mean that it is over. And but the part that I wanted you to see, how strong is his hatred.

In verse six:

“And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle.”<sup>11</sup>

Which is who? That is Christ.

“...and them that dwell in heaven.”<sup>12</sup>

I mean, they are out of reach. These are souls that he can no longer persecute. If you kill the body, that is it. And yet so vehement is his hatred for every one that Christ purchased that he, his one ambition is to reverse what Christ has done and bring them back. Thankfully he can’t.

But such is the warfare and I am not one of those that believes that when the first century finished then demon activity stopped. I believe it continues today. When you read what Paul talks about the doctrine of devils, it is in congregations. It is in organizations. It is in government and it is subtle. If you said that to some people that they are really devil worshippers, they would get mad at you and throw you out. I promise you. Go in and describe the way they worship as being motivated by Satan. Find out how long you stand in there.

You know, anything that is opposed to Christ and his gospel and what he has accomplished in his person and getting all the glory is satanic. And I believe this is the point here.

Now the sea in verse one, I believe, represents nations and their governments. That is pretty clear. You can go back, for example, and look in Isaiah chapter 17 and verse 12.

Here it says:

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Revelation 13:6.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

“Woe to the multitude of many people, which make a noise like the noise of the seas; and to the rushing of nations, that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!”<sup>13</sup>

Verse 13.

“The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them.”<sup>14</sup>

So the whole view here where you have got the roaring of peoples, again, the idea here is of a mob. We have seen some mob activity. When people get stirred up. They take to the streets. They can bring down governments. And if they can bring down governments, they can bring down churches. They can bring down, oppose any work of the Lord, true work of the Lord. It is like a raging sea. And I believe in—if you go over to Revelation 17 and verse 15 that we are going to see later on, it proves this point in Revelation chapter 17 and verse 15.

“And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.”<sup>15</sup>

So there is the connection. This is a beast that is sea born, in other words, rising up out of the nations and through governments of the world and persecuting, having the persecuting power of Satan embodied in those nations.

There are certain governments today and I know I take a lot of flack for saying it, but I believe we have a very anti Christian government in place today. And things have not finished settling today to where... you know, we may be in for some pretty tough days, days and years ahead. The freedoms of being able to stand and declare. All it takes is one person to oppose. All it takes is one lawsuit. All it takes is, you know, one trouble person and the next thing you know the government is going to impose itself and take away freedoms, you know. I am all for religious freedom. I don't care if they build a mosque across the street. I will support their right to build a mosque across the street. That is not my battle. But when the government tries to impose what it is we believe and how it is we worship and dictate when, where and how, that is when things are going to get tough. And, you know, we need to be thankful to the Lord for what he has given us.

Now here, again, in verse one it speaks of seven heads and 10 horns. Seven, again, is a symbol of perfection. And I believe it has to do with, you know, if we understand this in a general sense, a pretense to perfection. That is what men do. They pretend to establish a perfect government, perfect world order. These are terms that we hear today that are going to be for the benefit of the people when, in reality, it is antichrist.

But I believe... and I a lot of people ask me what kind of... what camp are you in when you go through? I am not in any camp. I try to take this Word and understand it. But I believe a lot of it is historic. I believe a lot of it pertained to what John was facing when

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<sup>13</sup> Isaiah 17:12.

<sup>14</sup> Isaiah 17:13.

<sup>15</sup> Revelation 17:15.

he was writing this and what he was going through. And you just have to do a little study on Rome to understand when it talks about seven heads, you know, Rome was built on seven mountains. And some describe the Roman government—I have not gone back and studied it enough to really talk too much about it, but the government was divided up in seven heads. It is like we have got three branches of government in ours. Rome had seven. There were different levels and so some feel that this is what is being described here. And the entire Roman Empire was divided up into 10 different powers, 10 different heads.

And so it makes sense that John would be writing here about a beast that, as he perceived it, under the guise of the Roman government, coming up out of the sea, facing the persecution that he was in knowing what was ahead would be describing it in these terms without actually saying Rome.

And to me that makes the most sense as far as how we are to interpret this particular passage. Now does it apply just to Rome? No. I believe that it can describe, again, any antichrist type government, worldly government that directs its power and authority against the Lord's people, against his Church.

And this particular beast, that persecuting power of Satan becomes visible and the accounts that we see here, it is a monster.

When I go back and read Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*, I have told you that before and that was a period after the Roman government. That is why I believe it describes any type of government that is antichrist. I have gotten myself in trouble for pointing out the fallacies with the protestant movement. Everybody thinks, well, the protestant movement was of God. It persecuted believers that held to the doctrine of Christ's death being particular. It persecuted men, women and children that refused to submit to sprinkling or believe in regenerative sprinkling. We are talking about reformers. And you can read in Foxe's *Book of Martyrs* the mockery of waiting till the tide went out and tying whole families to stakes on the seashore and waiting for tide to come to drown then as a symbol of baptism being an identification with Christ and his death.

People today take it for granted. It is all [?] all let's don't argue about the mode of baptism. If one wants to sprinkle, one wants to pour, one wants to immerse. Let's all get along. That is kind of the thought.

To me that is the seduction of the beast. Just as important as every detail of the doctrine of Christ is vital to stand for, who he is and what he accomplished and why he did it, people have laid down their lives, shed blood over this and we stand here today in this generation and say, "Well, let's get along. Let's see if we can't get along."

You know, to me it is... till my dying breath I will take a stand where this Scripture takes a stand, how the Lord has taught me. And if it in the end causes persecution, so be it. I pray for grace to withstand, but right now it brings isolation. It is a form of persecution. People will cut you off. You know, I have been through that. They will tell you it is



your, you know, your last check. Ok. You know, the Lord is going to care for his own, but I believe that, you know, when we read this, let's read it with the Spirit of John here on the Isle of Patmos, seeing these things and writing to encourage the Lord's people not to bow and not to, you know, not to become weary.

You can see that this all has to do with worship. You know, how people worship. Now when it says there in verse three—and I had to study this a little bit:

“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death.”<sup>16</sup>

Again, think in terms of the seven heads and the 10 horns. There were different kings that came and went. Some feel that this is a particular reference to Nero who when he began was the fiercest in his opposition to the Church. Much of what we read during John's age, you know, Paul himself would have been decapitated during this time, a very fierce time. But in AD 68 Nero committed suicide and it may well be a reference to that.

“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death.”<sup>17</sup>

And when Nero committed suicide, there was a thought among the Christian community that the persecution was over. And yet we can see here from Scripture, as it says:

“...his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.”<sup>18</sup>

How was it healed? Another was raised up. And that is why I say you can't just relate to the period of John. We are continuing to see one government after another being raised up in some form, in some place, in some time throughout the world this persecution is going to be expected until Christ comes again.

But this beast, people fall in line. You can't believe how strong an influence that governments have upon how people believe. We see it. We call it the Muslim community today. But you go over into certain countries where it... if you pronounce the name of Christ and have take any kind of public stand to identify with him, you will be threatened with death.

I can remember one of the men in Ivory Coast that the Lord began a work in and he was from a Muslim community and we did all our baptisms right out in public. We went down to the river. And I can remember, you know, us talking about it, what kind of consequences that would have for him once I baptized him, because to the Muslim community in which he was raised that was the symbol of his total denial of their religion. And I can remember being down in the water with him and up on the bridge was his family standing up watching and he pointed up and told me.

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<sup>16</sup> Revelation 13:3.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

He said, “They are waiting for me to get done.” He said, “If I go home I will be poisoned.”

And he left there right after the baptism and went to the northern part of the country to settle in away from his family. You know, when we talk even about Baptism, it is an identification with the Lord Jesus Christ and his death. Today it is made to be just such a... you know, it is a popular thing. Let’s see how many we can get baptized. And, you know, I weigh these things in my heart, because I baptize people in different places where it has meant life or death. And even for myself not knowing that, ok, you baptized them, now, who is waiting around the corner for you. But these are things I know that the Lord has his hand upon his people, his sheep. And we are immortal until such time as the Lord is pleased to take us. I have seen his hand over and over again down through the years and can prove it, you know, in my own life.

But you can see in verse four:

“And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast.”<sup>19</sup>

See, maybe not knowingly. It is like I tell you. People... if you tell them, well, that is the doctrine of devils, they... Oh, no, you know, we would never be ... we would never worship the devil.

Well, you are worshipping his doctrine.

And even by falling in line with government rule and regulations and authority that compromise... you know, I am a strong believer in separation of Church and state for this reason, that, you know, in no way do we want the government ever coming into this congregation and telling us what to do. But you start taking funds, you see some people that, you know, have taken funds for seemingly innocent things and suddenly they are going after that church, they are going after those members, they are shutting them down because they say that you can’t make a distinction, you know. Whatever the issue is.

You start taking money from the government and you are pretty much sold your soul to the devil. We have to stay autonomous, independent. We are not going to look to the government to put in social programs or any kind of thing that, you know, congregations get started with and I truly believe it is a step toward this apostasy because now you have to comply to government regulations.

And I will tell you. Most of what is written in this book there is not a government that is going to stand for it. So, you know, we bow.

But people get fascinated with power and authority, organization. That is why they say:

“Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?”<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Revelation 13:4.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

And I am sure as far as Rome is concerned it was quite a machine, quite a government.

“And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.”<sup>21</sup>

This is why I believe it was beyond the Roman government. It changes hands. But it is down through time until Christ comes again.

“And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.”<sup>22</sup>

If I could just relate this to what we read over in 2 Thessalonians chapter two, there are people today that will ask me, “Do you believe there is an antichrist that we are to look for?”

My answer is no, not any one particular man or form or government, because, as we are seeing here in this text, it is continual. It just changes forms. It changes manner. But I believe here in 2 Thessalonians two, you know, this is what Paul is saying. And it comes back, again, to are we to expect great revival before the Lord comes again? No. It is going to become more and more difficult as time goes on for any that are the Lord’s to worship. It is going to be more difficult to find a place. And I see it already in our day. And it may continue that way for a while or might be just a season of famine and the Lord be pleased to raise up. But ultimately from what I read in Scripture, we can expect before Christ comes again a falling away, a severe falling away under the influence of Satan.

That is what Paul said in verse three because there was word coming around that Christ had already come and some had gone, you know, the idea of a secret rapture. It has been around for a long time. And Paul put it down. He said in 2 Thessalonians 2:3:

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first.”<sup>23</sup>

Now, that was supplied by the translators, but it is referring back to the context. It literally reads, “For except there come a falling away first and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.”

See, that is what gets people thinking, ok, what man, but if you look down in verse seven that man is really a mystery of iniquity that already works. It is just going to manifest itself more and more. And how does it manifest itself? Look at verse four. It relates right along with Revelation 13.

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<sup>21</sup> Revelation 13:5.

<sup>22</sup> Revelation 13:6.

<sup>23</sup> 2 Thessalonians 2:3.

“Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God.”<sup>24</sup>

It is any spirit in man that would rival God’s authority, rival God’s sovereignty and put itself as his equal. And that is really what you have in free will religion. You have man setting himself up. When you hear preachers say God has done all he can do and now it is up to you, you know, the key is in your hands.

I had this conversation, you know, with a person in my office this past week when they were... and I was pleasantly surprised when they were talking about all of the stuff that goes on at this time of year with Christmas and they said people get all woozy and fuzzy feeling because the little baby Jesus and ... but they really don’t know who he is. That is what they told me.

I said, “You are right. The whole idea that somehow people like a Jesus that they can hold. Where they get their back up is when you let them know, no, it is not you holding him. It is him holding you. You know, he has authority over all flesh to give eternal life unto as many as the Father has given him.”

That is where you see people getting upset. We will not have this man to reign over us. But this is the Spirit that is there and it says:

“... exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”<sup>25</sup>

When you make man to be the captain of his salvation, as you hear people say today, or the determiner of their fate, you know, your destiny is up to you. You know what I am talking about. This is popular religion. And it is promoted by the government. When they talk about freedom of religion this is what they talk about freedom. It is let everybody believe how they want to and come as they want to and don’t exclude anybody.

Well, you know, that is the blasphemy and I believe in verse six of Revelation 13 that is comparable.

“And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.”<sup>26</sup>

I believe you blaspheme God and the tabernacle, Christ and those that are in heaven by denying how they are there. You know, it is either by the blood or righteousness of Christ or it is not. It is just that simple. Either God has a people that he has chosen and the reason they are there is because he has purposed to show them grace, or not. You know, so everyone... every aspect of the gospel is being attacked here. And you notice who it is that ultimately worshipped in this spirit and followed this beast in verse eight.

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<sup>24</sup> 2 Thessalonians 2:4.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Revelation 13:6.

“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him.”<sup>27</sup>

This is popular religion. It is worldwide. You don't have to teach people free will. We are all born with that spirit of antagonism and rebellion against a holy God and determining how it is we will worship.

But you notice it says:

“...whose names are not written in the book of life.”<sup>28</sup>

That tells me right there God is going to make a difference. If your name is written in the book of life of the Lamb, then... and notice, the Lamb slain, then the Lord is going to get you. He is going to draw you out even if you were among this mass at one time. He is going to draw you aside and you can see in verse nine it says:

“If any man have an ear, let him hear.”<sup>29</sup>

This takes discernment. It takes the Spirit of God teaching us. This is a spiritual ear.

Now in verse eight that can be understood variously. I believe there is two possible interpretations. It says:

“...whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain...”<sup>30</sup>

He wasn't slain from before time. You know, there are some that read this and say, “Well, see, there he was already slain from eternity.”

No. It can mean one of two things. If it means he was slain, notice, from the foundation of the world, then it refers to the types, the pictures, the promises, the prophecies concerning Christ right from the fall, that Lamb slain that God took those, the innocent animals and slew them and clothed Adam and Eve with those clothe skins from the foundation of the world. That was all typical of the Lamb of God.

The other way of reading it is that it is referring to those whose names are written in the book of life of the Lamb slain, but their names were written from the foundation of the world. In other words, this isn't an evolving list. It has been signed, sealed and delivered. God has determined it and given unto his Son who when in time came and died, died for them.

But the ultimate, the closing verse in verse 10—and I realize there is a lot here and I have tried to summarize it for you, but here is our hope. When it says:

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<sup>27</sup> Revelation 13:8.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Revelation 13:9.

<sup>30</sup> Revelation 13:8.

“He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity...”<sup>31</sup>

Satan deceives man and certainly has led many into captivity by God’s authority. But his end is also captivity. In other words, he is going to face the same end of condemnation and hell fire, separation from God eternally as those that he has deceived.

“...he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword.”<sup>32</sup>

That persecutor is nothing. You know, the Lord said:

“ And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”<sup>33</sup>

That is God himself. But ultimately those who out of hatred for God have killed, if the Lord leads them to himself they ultimately will face that condemnation, eternal condemnation and that is why it ends there in verse 10.

“Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.”<sup>34</sup>

In other words, it is a call for endurance and perseverance in that faith that the Lord gives. It is not Satan, but it is God who rules supreme. So we wait. We know that, you know, whatever happens the Lord directed it and the Lord caused it. The Lord ordained it. And therein is our peace. You know, regardless of where the opposition or the persecution may appear.

So that is the Satan’s persecution. Next time we will come back and take a look at Satan’s religion. It is all tied together. It is... they work together, but it is just how the Scriptures have divided it here.

All right. Let’s take our hymn books and sing hymn number 300.

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<sup>31</sup> Hebrews 13:10.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Matthew 10:28.

<sup>34</sup> Revelation 13:10.