

Revelation Study (Part 7)

THE LAODICEAN AGE (1930 – Second Coming)

- Seventh Letter = Revelation 3:14-22

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF LAODICEA:

- Located 45 miles southeast of Philadelphia
- Located about 90-100 miles east and 10 miles south of Ephesus (some references say 40 miles east)
 - greater light than the morning-time
- Very wealthy city, but spiritually poor
 - One of the wealthiest cities of the ancient world
 - When Laodicea was destroyed by an earthquake in A.D. 60, they refused aid from the Roman empire and rebuilt the city from their own wealth.
- Laodicea was in between two cities:
 - the city Hierapolis (*Hi-er-ap-o-lis*), whose water came from hot springs
 - Colosse, who had cold water
 - by the time the water got to Laodicea from either place, it was lukewarm.
 - visitors who were not used to it would spit it out immediately.
- Christ says that the church of Laodicea was neither cold for Him nor hot, and He wished they were one or the other.

Extreme heat and extreme cold have one thing in common: they both cause a reaction.

- 32 degrees = water freezes
- 212 degrees = boiling point of water
- what happens to water at room temperature? (nothing)¹

LAODICEA

- The word *Laodicea* literally means "the judgment of the people."
 - Today pastors are more concerned w/pleasing the people than preaching "thus saith the Lord."
 - God never ordained that His church be run by the people. It is not a democracy.
- Compare 7th letter to previous six:

Revelation 2:1—"Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write."

Revelation 2:8—"And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write."

Revelation 2:12—"And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write."

Revelation 2:18—"And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write."

Revelation 3:1—"And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write."

Revelation 3:7—"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write."

Revelation 3:14—"And unto the angel of the church **of the Laodiceans** write."

- The church wasn't just "in" Laodicea; they had become "Laodiceans."

¹ WorshipHouseMedia.com

- Prevailing condition – lukewarmness (with a profession)
- Only church that talked back to Christ: "because thou sayest, I am rich"
- Nothing terribly sinful charged to Laodicea – unlike other church ages:
Pergamos = *"eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication."*
Thyatira = *"thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols."*
- Lukewarmness brings a self-sufficient spirit
- People "rest" in the fact that they know truth or have been Church of God for years
- Laodicea took great pride in her financial wealth, yet the Lord told them to buy "gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich." Laodicea took pride in its clothing, yet the Lord told them to buy "white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed." Laodicea took pride in its eye medicine, yet the Lord told them to buy "anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see."

HOW DID CHRIST APPEAR TO THIS SEVENTH-SEAL ERA?

"These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God" (Revelation 3:14)

- **"the Amen"** = Greek word is "verily, verily"
 – Amen = true, unchangeable
- **"the faithful and true witness"** = there would be many false witnesses in this day
- **"the beginning of the creation of God"** = Christ was the "Ancient of days" (Daniel 7:9)
 – Christ was there at the beginning (the Agent of Creation; Ephesians 3:9)
 – Christ began this, and He will end it
- Christ is establishing who He is (unchanging, faithful, true) and that He is in charge of His church

SEVENTH LETTER – Revelation 3:14-22

- This is the last letter: ***"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished . . ."*** (Revelation 10:7).
 – We also know this is the last letter because seven is the biblical number for completion
- The end of this era is the Second Coming of Christ ("no man knows the day or the hour" Matthew 24:36), so no date can be given.
- But we can know the signs of His coming
 – Matthew 24:37 – *"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."*
 – Here Christ gave a comparison to the era of time that is prior to the Second Advent of Christ.
 – Matthew 24:38 – *"For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark."*
 – Luke 17:26-30: *"And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all."*
- Not one charge of sin brought against the people in Noah's day
- Not one charge of sin was brought against the Laodiceans either (but no commendations)

- **Compare:**
 - *"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing and **knowest not** . . ." (Revelation 3:17).*
 - Matthew 24:39 says, *"And **knew not** until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."*
 - Just as people failed to understand what was coming in Noah's day, so people in our day fail to understand
- Genesis 7:7 and 10: *"And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood . . . And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth."*
 - Just as God gave Noah seven days to get people into the ark, we have had seven "days" to get people into the ark.
 - When God shuts the door (just as in Noah's day), no one can enter after that

SEVENTH SEAL – Revelation 8:1-2

"And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets."

- **"opened the seventh seal"** = Christ loosed the Holy Spirit to give understanding
- **"silence in heaven"** = this was the need for the opening of the seventh seal
- **"heaven"** – heavenly places in Christ Jesus; the ministry became silent on the message
 - this is the 3rd heaven Paul spoke of (2 Corinthians 12:2)
 - What was the message they had become silent on? "Come out of her my people."
- **"silence"** = produced by sin
 - Jeremiah 8:14 – *"Why do we sit still? assemble yourselves, and let us enter into the defenced cities, and let us be silent there: for the Lord our God hath put us to silence, and given us water of gall to drink, because we have sinned against the Lord."*
 - By silencing on the message, they actually undid much of the great work that was done by the brethren in the beginning of this era
- Anderson camp meetings would number in the thousands (some say as many as 5,000).
 - To keep this large number of people, the ministry became silent on the more "offensive" parts of the message
 - As the older brethren died off, the younger brothers did not remain true to the message

"Soon following all this glory and power and manifestation of the glory of God, something happened. At one time you could go to the campground at Anderson, Indiana, and visit a trophy room. There you could see the wheelchairs and crutches that people no longer needed since God had healed them. Cancers that had fallen off peoples' faces were in bottles of formaldehyde. They once had a whole room filled with trophies of what the power of God could do when people held truth in the exalted position that it ought to be held in.

"Today Anderson does not have a trophy room. Today they have a college. The emphasis is on higher education, and men who do not believe God's Word are teaching those who are supposed to become ministers of the Gospel. Yet, the teachers do not subscribe to, adhere to, or teach the truths held by the original sixth-seal brethren. Something has happened. A 'silence' moved right into this

heavenly position." ²

- Isaiah 11:11 – *"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left"*
 - **first time** = God gathered a remnant from Babylon with the sixth-seal brethren
 - **second time** = God set His hand a second time (second remnant)

THE RAM & THE HE GOAT SYMBOLS (at end of the 6th seal & beginning of the 7th)

- Daniel 8:1, 3-7
- these symbols are the antitype (fulfillment) of Daniel's second vision (Daniel 8:1-5)
- let's look to prophecy to understand this symbol on the chart

LITERAL FULFILLMENT

There is a literal fulfillment and also a spiritual type to this text (reminder – kaleidoscope)

- **ram** = Medes & Persians (Daniel 8:20)
 - "had two horns" = 2 kingdoms (like the 2 arms of Nebuchadnezzar's image)
 - one horn was higher than the other
 - just as the bear was raised up on one side
 - one kingdom (Persia) was more powerful than the other (Medes)
- **he goat** = Grecia (Daniel 8:21)
 - "touched not the ground" = swiftness of Alexander's conquests
 - he-goat was well-known Macedonian symbol
 - Macedonia was part of Greece
 - Alexander the Great was a Macedonian ³

RECOGNIZABLE SYMBOLS

- **Ram Symbol**
 - "this allusion to Macedonia under the emblem of the goat . . . would be readily understood. . . . the kingdom itself of Macedon . . . was represented also by a goat, with this peculiarity, that it had but one horn." ⁴
- **Red Dragon Symbol**
 - the red dragon was the Roman standard
- Reinforcing the fact that John would have readily recognized these symbols

SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT

- **ram** = type of something that is acceptable to God
 - (review story of Abraham, Isaac & the ram; the ram was an acceptable sacrifice)
 - two horns = Word & Spirit
 - placement on chart; what was acceptable to God? (6th seal brethren who had accepted & measured up to the truth of unity and the one church)

² *The Book of Revelation Explained, Volume 3* by Earl Borders

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great

⁴ Barnes' Notes on the Bible (Daniel 8:5); <http://bible.cc/daniel/8-5.htm>

- **goat** = define by characteristics
 - came from the west = opposite direction of light
 - symbolic of coming spiritual darkness
 - this caused the "silence in heaven about the space of half an hour" (Rev. 8:1)
 - came against the ram (that which was accepted in God's eyes)
 - chronological order: Just as in the literal interpretation, the ram (Medes & Persians) came before the he-goat (Grecians), so in the spiritual the ram came first; then the he-goat
- He-Goat "smote the ram, and brake his two horns" and "cast him down to the ground" (Daniel 8:7)
 - people were taken from a position where the Word & Spirit were in control to an earthen (manmade) spiritual position
 - a picture of a fallen ministry affecting the people

THE HE-GOAT

"And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them" (Daniel 8:10)

- **"heaven"** = heavenly places
- **"stars"** = ministry (those who preached the light of the 6th seal)
- **"ground"** = earth (an earthen level)
- spirit of unbelief (represented by the dragon's tail on the chart) brought them down from the truths they once believed
 - red horse & rider = unbelief & paganism (symbolized by dragon's tail)
- **"cast down"** = people who once held the truths of unity & the one church were spiritually cast down and became sectarian in their beliefs

ANOTHER MIGHTY ANGEL – Revelation 10:1-11

- Necessary to understand this before beginning the 7th trumpet
- Before the seventh trumpet sounded, we read of "another mighty angel" (Revelation 10:1).
 - Angels are messengers
 - who exactly is this "angel"?

Define by Characteristics:

- **"clothed with a cloud"**
 - cloud is symbolic of God's presence (Old Testament)
- **"rainbow was upon his head"**
 - where else did we see a rainbow? (Morning time)
 - It has moved from His hand to His head (always on His mind)
 - rainbow = new covenant (remind them: the colors are all the attributes of salvation)
 - this rainbow was lost sight of since the morning time until now; this "mighty angel" is bringing it back into sight
- **"his face was as it were the sun"**
 - use **Keys** to understand this:
 - On the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus' "face did shine as the sun" (Matthew 17:2)
 - Daniel spoke of one who was "clothed in linen" with a "face as the appearance of lightning" (Daniel 10:5-6)

- John wrote, ". . . and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength" (Revelation 1:16).
- **"his feet as pillars of fire"**
 - Daniel's vision: "his feet [were] like in colour to polished brass" (Daniel 10:6).
 - "And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace" (Revelation 1:15).
 - pillar of fire led Israel by night
- **"And he had in his hand a little book open"**
 - the book that was sealed w/seven seals, the one that no man could open (Rev. 5:3)
 - Revelation 5:7 tells us that the Lamb (Christ) took the book and opened it
- **"And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth."**
 - Who roars as a lion?
 - Joel 3:16 *"The Lord also shall roar out of Zion"*
 - Hosea 11:10 *"They shall walk after the Lord: he [the Lord] shall roar like a lion: when he shall roar, then the children shall tremble from the west."*
 - Amos 3:8 *"The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord God hath spoken, who can but prophesy?"*
- **This mighty angel is Christ**
 - The ministry needed to get a vision of Christ before the 7th seal could be open.
 - Much of what was accomplished during the 6th seal was destroyed by the failure of the ministry at the end.
 - Sectarian walls were torn down during the 6th seal; in the 7th seal these walls again are having to be torn down
 - Many of the 7th seal ministry were once in the 6th seal
 - they were disturbed by the conditions of the Anderson Church of God
 - the thought was: if they left, they were leaving God's true church
 - God had to show them that His presence had left the Anderson Movement; they needed a fresh vision of Christ
- They were to follow the feet as pillars of fire – this was not a movement of men
 - Christ's feet as pillars of fire are leading His people in the evening time
 - God was calling His people to come out and be a part of that second remnant
 - Without this divine revelation, the ministry & people wouldn't know where to move to. They needed to see where Christ was standing.

SEVENTH TRUMPET – Revelation 11:15-19

"And the seventh angel sounded . . . And the nations were angry . . . And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail."

"temple of God was opened in heaven" (verse 19)

- another effect of this 7th trumpet message
- temple = Church of God (**Key:** 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20; Ephesians 2:19-22)
- the truth on the one church began to be obscured at the end of the 6th seal
- God again opened up understanding concerning the one church

"and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament" (verse 19)

- **"ark"** = symbol of God's presence in the temple
 - showing the Ark has returned to "his temple" (permanent resting place: Mt. Zion)
 - The message on the church has been fully restored
 - God's presence is back where it belongs

"the nations were angry" (verse 18)

- denominations are angry with this light
- God is moving everything out of Babylon
- Babylon was once a golden cup in God's hand, but no more
- Psalm 87:7 – "all my springs are in thee" (the Euphrates River was dried up; Rev. 16:12)

"and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail" (verse 19)

- all these things occurred when the 7th trumpet was sounded
- **lightnings** = symbol of receiving light (Psalm 119:130)
- **thunderings** = symbol of hearing from God (Psalm 18:13)
 - God thunders to get people's attention and He sends lightning (understanding)
 - **Literal** thunder & lightning happen at the same time (speed of light makes lightning appear to be first)

When people accepted this understanding, there were **voices**

- **voices** = voice of many witnesses (people who embrace this truth; people who are filled with the Holy Ghost; Acts 1:8)
 - thunderings & lightnings = message of the 7th seal (trumpet)
 - voices = what this message produced
- **"great hail"** = solid truth (Revelation 8:7; Isaiah 28:17)
- **"earthquake"** = people being shook up
 - when people in Babylon hear the truth (that the system they are a part of, working for) is of the devil, it causes some shaking
 - Think of Saul on the Damascus road: he thought he was doing God's will
 - Imagine his shock when he discovered that which he was fighting against (Jesus) was truth
 - *"And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"* (Acts 9:6)
 - The intensity of this earthquake will become greater & greater until the Lord returns
 - 3rd earthquake = *"so mighty an earthquake and so great"* (Revelation 16:18).

CHART SYMBOLS OF THIS CHURCH ERA:

- (1) **"seventh trumpet angel"** = sounding the message on unity, one church, and all the light of the seven ages
- (2) **"ram"** = ram was something acceptable to God (Abraham's sacrifice); sixth-seal brethren who had accepted & measured up to the truth of unity and the one church
- (3) **"he-goat"** = came against the ram (from the west); sixth-seal ministry who had backed up

on the message of unity & the one church

(4) seven women = false religion (Babylon) in every church age

(5) three frogs = three unclean spirits (paganism, papalism & Protestantism)

(6) white horse & rider = saints coming out of Babylon

– remnant of the remnant

(7) "many waters" = great apostasy (people who once had truth)

- Revelation 17:1 *"And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters."*
- **"waters"** = *"And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues"* (Revelation 17:15).
- The "whore" is sitting (above or over) these people
- "Peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues" – this is a great move
- water is flowing down into the 8th beast
 - these people have embraced the eighth beast system of worship

CHART SYMBOLS OF THIS CHURCH ERA CONTINUED:

(8) church buildings = manmade organizations on the low earthly level

(9) willow tree = harps are hanging on this willow tree

- location of tree (Babylon)
 - harps are made to be played (not hung on a tree)
 - Psalm 137:1-4 – *"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?"*
- **Lord's song** = songs of Zion cannot be sung in Babylon
- **"we sat down"** = no strength to stand
- How should the **harps** be used?
 - Revelation 15:2-4 – *"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the **song of Moses** the servant of God, and the **song of the Lamb**, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest."*
 - **Song of Moses** = deliverance from literal bondage
 - **Song of the Lamb** = deliverance from spiritual bondage
- Revelation 14:3 – *"And they sung as it were a new song before the throne . . . and no man could learn that song"*
 - This was a new song that could not be learned – it has to be experienced!

(10) red horse & rider = unbelief & pagan Rome in its persecution phase

(11) black horse & rider = apostasy & Papalism

(12) pale horse & rider = compromise & Protestantism

Where are all three horses & their riders headed? (Into the eighth beast)

CHART SYMBOLS OF THIS CHURCH ERA (SEA OF GLASS):

(13) sea of glass = _____

- Who is standing on the "sea of glass"?
 - Revelation 15:2 – *"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast [Papalism], and over his image [Protestantism], and over his mark [indoctrination], and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God."*
 - People w/victory over all of false religion
 - People who can sing a song of victory & deliverance
- **What is the "sea of glass"?**
 - Hebrew imagery referring to the "brassen sea" (2 Kings 25:13) or the "laver of brass" (Exodus 30:18)
 - This "laver" or bowl was highly polished & acted as a mirror
 - Before people entered the tabernacle, they must pass by this brazen laver & see their reflection
 - They were instructed to wash in the brazen laver (that was full of water)
- **Spiritually, what are we to wash with?**
 - Ephesians 5:26 – *"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word."*
 - James 1:23 speaks of the Word being as a "glass" (or mirror)
 - Thus, the **"sea of glass"** represents the Word of God.
 - We look into it, see our true reflection and are washed by the Word.
 - This produces victory.
- Compare to Revelation 4:7 – *"And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal"*
 - No one was standing on it. Why?
 - Those people didn't have victory over the beast, his image, his mark & the number of his name.
 - Also, it was not "mingled with fire."
 - Fire = Holy Spirit (Day of Pentecost)
 - Fire also represents judgment (Sodom & Gomorrah)

MORE CHART SYMBOLS OF THIS CHURCH ERA

(14) throne = the Lamb (Christ) is on the throne

- compare to the "usurper" on the throne in the Pergamene era
- **Letter to Laodicea:** *"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father **in his throne**"* (Revelation 3:21).
- Hebrews 1:8 – *"But unto the Son he saith, **Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.**"*
- Revelation 4:6 – *"And before **the throne** there was a sea of glass like unto crystal"*
- **In His hand** – "sickle" (Revelation 14:14-18) or a "rod of iron" (Revelation 19:15) or a "sceptre" (Hebrews 1:8).

(15) water under the book = River of Life

- *"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb"* (Revelation 22:1)

(16) mother of all harlots = Mystery Babylon

(17) red devil = Satan working

- location – beside the dragon tail & the three stars
- move of the enemy at the end of the 6th seal; the devil was working in a renewed way
- the dragon = Satan & the devil (Revelation 12:9; 20:2)

THE EIGHTH BEAST (Revelation 17:1-11)

Define by Characteristics:

- **"seven heads and ten horns" (verse 3)** (but no crowns)
 - the dragon (Revelation 12:3) had "seven heads, ten horns, and seven crowns"
 - spirit of paganism is included in this beast
 - the papal beast had seven heads, ten horns, and ten crowns
 - spirit of papalism is included in this beast
 - **heads** = government
 - **horns** = power (determined by creature horn is on)
 - **crowns** = power to rule (2 Chron. 23:11)
 - **no crowns on the 8th beast**
 - eighth beast has no civil power; power will be through influence
- **"the eighth is of the seven" (verse 11)** – comprised of the seven previous beasts; it is a consolidation
- **"names of blasphemy" (verse 3)** – we read of this previously w/papalism (Revelation 13:1); papalism is included in this beast
 - to include papalism is to include the four beasts of Daniel's vision
 - Revelation, Chapter 13, shows the characteristics of the papal beast to be like each one of the four beasts in Daniel
 - like a leopard, feet like a bear, mouth like a lion, power from the dragon
- **"ascended out of the bottomless pit" (verse 8)** – reference to the Protestant beast (Rev. 11:7-8)
 - This beast is composed of all the forces that have worked against the church: heathenism, paganism, papalism (Catholicism), and Protestantism (multiple denominations)
- **"and goeth into perdition" (verse 11)** – after this is eternity; this is the final enemy of the church

WHERE DO WE SEE A GATHERING OF SUCH A VARIETY OF FORCES?

- **The World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches, and local Ministerial Associations**
 - **World Council of Churches:** Anglican, Baptists, Lutheran, Methodists, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Roman Catholicism, Quakers, (many more) "The WCC brings together 349 churches, denominations and church fellowships in more than 110 countries and territories throughout the world, representing over 560 million Christians

and including most of the world's Orthodox churches." ⁵

- **WCC** : "The Roman Catholic Church has been since the Second Vatican Council an active participant in the Ecumenical Movement and a valued partner with The World Council of Churches. . . . It is inconceivable that either the WCC or the Roman Catholic Church could pursue its ecumenical calling without the collaboration of the other." ⁶
- **National Council of Churches**
 - 40 million Christians in 100,000 congregations
 - "We strengthen relationships between Christians and people of other faiths through study, dialogue, the development of cooperative programs, and the sharing of resources and information." ⁷
- **Prayer Breakfasts** (national & local)
- **Key Words:**
 - interfaith, ecumenical, shared ministry, unified Christian voice, network, united witness
- **This beast was forming in the sixth seal**
 - Although, the ministry did not understand exactly what it was, they spoke out against it.
- **1893 – The World's Parliament of Religions was held in Chicago**
 - **F.G. Smith** (sixth-seal reformer): "The dragon, the beast, and the false prophet met in 'mutual confidence and respect.' A 'brotherhood' of religions. Theism, Judaism, Mohammadanism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shintoism, Zoroastrianism, Catholicism, the Greek Church, and Protestantism in many forms—all of these were represented. And the devotees of these religions met, as they said 'To unite all religion against all irreligion; to make the golden rule the basis of this union; and to present to the world substantial unity of many religions.'" ⁸
 - **Opening address to this parliament:** "Worshippers of God and lovers of man: Let us rejoice that we have lived to see this glorious day. . . . If this Congress shall faithfully execute its duties with which it has been charged, it shall become the joy of the whole earth, and stand in human history like a new Mount Zion, crowned with glory, and marking the actual beginning of a new epoch of brotherhood and peace. For when the religious faiths of the world recognize each other as brothers, children of one Father, whom all profess to love and serve, then, and not until then, will the nations of the earth yield to the spirit of concord and learn war no more." (Address given by President Charles Carroll Bonney) ⁹

⁵ <http://www.oikoumene.org/>

⁶ *World Christianity in the Twentieth Century* by Noel A. Davies

⁷ www.nccusa.org

⁸ *The Revelation Explained* by F. G. Smith

⁹ *Neely's History of the Parliament of Religions and Religious Congresses at the World's Columbian Exposition*

THE GREAT WHORE (Revelation 17:1-9)

- the woman is described as sitting:
 - "many waters" (verse 1)
 - "upon a scarlet coloured beast" (verse 3)
 - "seven mountains" (verse 9)
 - three different aspects of the same truth
 - **"waters"** are people (Revelation 17:15)
 - showing that she is above or over people
 - "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues" – universal, a great move
 - **"scarlet coloured beast"** is a manmade, religious system made up of people;
 - scarlet (and red) both symbolize sin (Isaiah 1:18)
 - **"seven mountains"** – mountains in the Bible represent places of worship (John 4:20)
 - the beast is a system of worship
- **"woman"** = mother (compare to the church who is a mother & a wife; she was a wife first)
- **"mother of harlots"** – she was a harlot & her daughters are harlots as well

"And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach" (Isaiah 4:1).

- **"wear our own apparel"** – they don't want to wear the garments of salvation & the robe of righteousness (Isaiah 61:10) for that is not seductive
- **"eat our own bread"** – they don't want the Bread of Life (Jesus; John 6:51); they want their own doctrines
- harlots in each church age, but more specifically these daughters are the many Protestant bodies (denominations)
- **mother of harlots** = Roman Catholicism
- **father** = "Ye are of your father the devil" (John 8:44)
- **"on her forehead was written MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT"**
 - Babylon means "confusion," or more specifically "religious confusion"
- **"arrayed in purple and scarlet colour"**
 - royal colors; she assumes the "right to rule"
- **"decked with gold and precious stones and pearls"** = truths (1 Corinthians 3:12-13)
 - this woman (Roman Catholicism) did not start with truth (as did the Reformation); there was no truth in her, but she has picked up some truths along the way to make her more acceptable
 - she has "decked" herself with these truths; they are not in her foundation (a part of her)
 - she is still a whore; her nature has not changed
- **"sit upon a scarlet coloured beast"** – she holds the reins; she is in control
- **"having a golden cup in her hand"** – supposed to be the "cup of salvation"; Psalm 116:13
 - we know it is not because the contents of the cup make men drunk
 - *"Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad"* (Jeremiah 51:7)
 - Cup moved from "the Lord's hand" (Jeremiah 51:7) to the harlot's hand (Revelation

- 17:4). What does being in one's hand mean? (In one's control)
- She changed the contents of the cup; she still has the outward form ("a form of godliness"; 2 Timothy 3:5); it looks like she is offering something that is good.
 - When the cup is in the Lord's hand, it is a cup of salvation
 - When it is in the harlot's hand, it is "full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication" (Revelation 17:4)
 - The contents cause men to commit fornication (because they are drunk)
 - People who are normally quiet and calm will fight to protect this "harlot" because they are intoxicated

BIBLE UNITY & ITS COUNTERFEIT

- The message of our day is unity, more particularly unity of the faith
- Many today want "unity of the spirit" only; that is an outdated message
 - What's the difference?
- Unity of the spirit was the message previous to 1880 (then the message was "Come out of her my people; message of the 6th seal)
 - once the message on the one church came out, it was "unity of the faith" – "one body" (Ephesians 4:4)
- for every true, the enemy produces a counterfeit
 - **Example: Moses & Aaron** – Aaron cast down his rod & it became a serpent; the magicians did the same thing
 - Notice that Aaron's rod (one church) swallowed up the many rods (denominations) of the magicians
- **False Unity:** "These have **one mind**, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast" (Revelation 17:13).
- **True Unity:** "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the **same mind**" (1 Corinthians 1:10).
- one mind = unity; same mind = unity (seems to be the same thing; counterfeit unity)
 - how do you discover a counterfeit? (Study the true)
 - Tower of Babel: "*And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language*" (Genesis 11:6)
 - this was not true unity, because they were working against God
 - false unity is more like a "union"
 - "the enemy of my enemy is my friend"

Two Bases for True Bible Unity:

- **Unity of the Spirit** – must have the same Spirit; you cannot have biblical unity if there is another spirit involved
 - "*Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*" (Ephesians 4:3)
 - This is why we are told to "try the spirit" (or test the spirit)
- **Unity of the Faith** – "*Till we all come in the unity of the faith*" (Ephesians 4:13).
 - Unity of the Faith = unity of doctrine and the message

Must "Come Down" for False Unity:

- People think the beast (false unity) is a beautiful thing: "Isn't that great? We'll just lay down our differences and join together."
 - notice: "lay down our differences" usually means "you lay down your differences"
 - God's people are the ones who have to "come down"
 - Reference story of Nehemiah & people rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.
 - Nehemiah would have had to "come down" to join Sanballat & Tobiah
 - Today, people want you to fellowship with them, but many times you'll have to "come down" to do so
 - "Come down" = lay down truth (doctrines and the standard)
- John also thought this beast was a beautiful thing: "*when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration*" (Revelation 17:6)
 - We don't read of John admiring any of the other beasts he saw
 - This system is more deceptive than all the other religious systems
- the angel said in verse 7, "*Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery.*"
 - In other words, I will tell you the truth, then you will not marvel anymore.

Opposing forces often come together for a common purpose

- Luke 23:12 (before the Crucifixion) — "*And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.*"
- The Sadducees (who did not believe in angels, the Resurrection, or spirits) and the Pharisees (who believed in each of those) were greatly opposed to one another; yet they came together and laid down their differences to fight against Christ, or truth.
- This gathering is a collection of **all previous opposing forces** for the common purpose of standing against truth.
 - Where is this found? (In the 8th beast)
 - What is their purpose? Revelation 17:14 says, "*These shall make war with the Lamb.*"
- 1 Timothy 6:12 - Paul told Timothy to "*fight the good fight of faith.*"
 - The fight is over the faith (unity of Spirit & unity of the faith)
 - faith = doctrine or truth

THE FINAL BATTLE (Revelation 20:8-9)

- two gatherings
 - God's soldiers
 - All opposing forces (8th beast)
- Revelation 17:14, "*These shall make war with the Lamb.*"
 - Just like old pagan Rome, all gods were accepted and tolerated, except for the one true God – so it is today
- "*gather them together*" & "*compassed [encircled] the camp of the saints*"
 - enemy is working hard to gather and surround God's true people
- "*number as the sand of the sea*" (Revelation 20:8)
 - God's people have always been outnumbered (no new thing under the sun; Ecc. 1:9)
 - "*for ye were the fewest of all people*" (Deuteronomy 7:7)
- **What brings victory?**
 - the same thing that brought victory in the past

- a faithful people, standing true to the message (Rev. 17:14)
- Rev. 20:9 *"fire came down from God out of heaven"*
 - *"Is not my word as a fire"* (Jeremiah 23:29)
- **overcame dragon:** *"by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word"* (Rev. 12:11)
- **overcame papalism:** *"had the wound by a sword"* (Rev. 13:14)
- Enemy thinks they are working against the truth, **but:**
 - *"For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth"* (2 Cor. 13:8)
 - *"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good"* (Gen. 50:20)
 - **How does it work for good?**
 - *"His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them **he shall push the people together**"* (Deut. 33:17)
 - *"in the day that the **Lord bindeth up the breach** of his people"* (Isaiah 30:26)
 - this will bring God's people together in unity (power)
- **An Awakening**
 - *"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword"* (Rev. 19:15)
 - Parable of the Ten Virgins
 - *"And at midnight there was a cry made"* (Matt. 25:6)
 - cry = preaching (Matt. 3:1, 3)
 - all the virgins arose = everyone woke up (not everyone made the right moves)
- Evening-time revival:
 - Haggai 2:9 — *"The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former."*
 - Revelation 17:14 — *"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them."*
- **Bite and Devour**
 - What happens when it is evident these spirits cannot win against Christ & His army?
 - *"And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore"* (Rev. 17:16)
 - they will turn on the "whore"
 - just like Midianites & Amalekites on the plain of Megiddo in Gideon's day
 - *"And the Lord set every man's sword against his fellow"* (Judges 7:22).

Are You Following the Lamb?

1. That old beast in Revelation had deceived all the nations,
And all the world wondered after him.
But the Lamb the truth revealed when He opened up that seal
And uncovered sin and darkness in them.

"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 the beast" (Revelation 13:3).

2. And then he saw another that's different from the other
And he caused everyone to take a mark.
He had two horns like a lamb, but he wasn't the I AM.
He just had the people walking in the dark.

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon" (Revelation 13:11).

3. And then he saw the one called "Mystery Babylon,"
And that scarlet-colored beast that carried her.
John looked with admiration til he got a revelation
And he knew that she was just an imposter.

"And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (Revelation 17:5).

4. The most deceptive one of all is the one the Bible calls
The eighth beast in Revelation 17.
He shall make war with the lamb, but the Lamb shall overcome
For He is Lord of lords and King of kings.

"And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition" (Revelation 17:11).

5. Friend, if you have compromised and there's scales upon your eyes
And you can't see the great Church of God,
Jesus said, "I counsel thee to come and buy of me
Pure gold that's been tried in the fire."

"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see" (Revelation 3:18; 7th Letter).

6. From his mark and image too, I know He'll deliver you
And even from the number of his name.

And then you can shout and sing, "Hallelujah, Christ is King!"
And forevermore you'll never be the same.

"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God" (Revelation 15:2; 7th Trumpet Era).

Chorus:

Are you following the Lamb? I'm so glad I am.
I can now sing the song of victory.
Standing on the sea of glass. Oh, I am free at last!
I've got victory over the beast. Hallelujah!