

## A Peek Between the Covers of Revelation

### Part 5

#### The Controversy over Worship

Recap:

- The book is about Jesus. That means it's about grace.
- There's a war on. Sin began with the angel closest to God. Satan believes that he should be worshiped. He slanders God in order to win our worship.
- The only way to sterilize the universe from sin is to allow Satan an opportunity to prove his case. At the end of that demonstration, every being will be convicted of the righteousness of God. Then the wicked can be destroyed, and the righteous will love God with no possibility that they will ever rebel.
- God must deal with sin in an orderly way to defeat Satan's charges of corruption. This orderly framework is called the covenant. It was delivered in written form at Sinai, and is described in the messages to the churches.
- Revelation 4-5 describes the coronation of Jesus, the Worthy King who wants us with Him. In it, He receives the scroll of the covenant, which He alone is worthy to enforce.
- The Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls are a symbolic survey of how the Call of Grace, Warning of Judgment, and Judgment work in this sinful era.

The Call of Grace – The Church Witnessing in Persecution:

- Rev 12:1, 1:1 – The woman is a **SYMBOL**.
- Rev 12:1, Gen 37:9-11 – The stars are symbols of **ISRAEL**.
- Rev 12:2, 5, Psa 2:7-9 – The woman's child is **JESUS**.
- Rev 12:3 – The dragon is a **SYMBOL**.
- Rev 12:3, Dan 7:3-7 – The dragon is a symbol of **HUMAN GOVERNMENT**.
- Rev 12:3, 9 – The dragon is *also* a symbol of **SATAN**, who is also the **SLANDERER**.
- Rev 12:4, 7-9 – A third of the **ANGELS** joined Satan's rebellion and were quarantined on the earth.
- Rev 12:4, 6, 10-11, 13-17 – The woman represents the **SAINTS** who **TESTIFY** about **JESUS**, even when they are oppressed. They tell the world about Jesus' **GRACE**.
- Rev 12:17, John 14:15, 21, 24, Matt 22:36-40 – The saints keep the **COMMANDMENTS** of God and hold the **TESTIMONY** of Jesus.

## The Warning of Judgment – They Did Not Repent:

Key thought: It's not important that we know everything about the beast. The beast is the opponent of the Lamb. If we know the Lamb, everything else is secondary.

- Rev 13:1-2, Dan 7:3-7 – The beast represents **HUMAN GOVERNMENT**.
- Rev 13:1-2 – The beast emphasizes **BLASPHEMY**. Its power comes from **SATAN**.
- Rev 13:3-4 – The healing of the deadly wound results in the **ENTIRE WORLD** worshipping the beast.
- Rev 13:5, 12:6, 11:2-3 – God allows **THE DRAGON** to have authority for a set period.
- Rev 13:6, 12:12 – God's tabernacle, or Temple, is made up of the **SAINTS**.
- Rev 13:10, Jer 15:1-6 – The saints persevere, knowing that in the end, the wicked will be **RESCUED**.
- Rev 13:11 – The second beast combines the voice of **SATAN** with the appearance of the **SACRIFICIAL** lamb. This suggests a **WICKED** ruler.
- Rev 13:14 – The second beast deceives the **WICKED**, not the **SAINTS**.
- Rev 13:16-17, Deut 6:6-13 – The mark of the Beast describes what people **BELIEVE** and **DO**.

## Judgment!

- Rev 14:14 – **JESUS** executes judgment.
- Rev 14:17-20 – The second harvest is God's **WRATH** against the **WICKED**.
- Rev 14:15-16 – The first harvest is when God rescues the **SAINTS**.

## Interlude – Three Angels:

- Rev 14:1-3 – **ISRAEL** rejoices by singing a new song at the final harvest.
- Rev 14:4-5, Ezek 23:30 – Chastity means avoiding **IDOLATRY** and following **CHRIST**.
- Rev 14:6-7 – The first angel echoes the **SEALS**.

- Rev 14:6 – Judgment is “good news” to the **SAINTS**.
- Rev 14:8 – The second angel warns that **BABYLON** is “fallen.” This echoes the **TRUMPETS**.
- Rev 14:9-11 – The third angel announces **JUDGMENT** against the wicked.
- Rev 14:11, Exod 13:21 – The smoke echoes the **PILLAR** of cloud of the exodus. It rises **OUT OF SIGHT**.