

Revelation 13:1 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.

2 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,

3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and the world

wondered after the beast.

4 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?

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and months.

6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

7 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.

8 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.

9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

10 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.

The First Beast

Brother E. A. Wilson

Missing History

In our previous message, we found that two different women went into the wilderness. One went into the wilderness of confusion because she fled from truth; the other went into a place of obscurity where God nourished her, where man could not beat her around any longer.

Now, how did they come out? We will see the true woman, the church, come out beginning with Martin Luther. The Song of Solomon 8:5a says, "Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved?" The other woman never came out; she is still in the wilderness. Revelation, Chapter 17, gives us a picture of a woman on a scarlet-colored beast, still in the wilderness. She still has the same spirit, fighting against truth and the cause of God, surrounding the camp of the saints.

When we begin to consider some of the darkness of false religion, we want to make it very clear that we are not talking about any person or any people. We are talking about a very deceptive system that the devil is working through. When I went to

school, we studied about it in history, but this history is not in history books now. No, children are not learning about the terrible perils of the Roman Empire. This beast we are studying about worked around in such a deceptive manner until he was lifted out of the history books.

I just wonder, as God looks down on the United States today, how many congregations there are where the message against that system is being sounded out? My friend, that devilish power does not want the truth told on them because it hinders their work. Because there has been such a letup of truly pouring out the truth on these conditions, Roman Catholicism has expanded through deception. Through deception, she has the state teaching her school children. Come on, she is making you and me pay to have child to be taught darkness. Every time you pay your taxes, you are paying to have people instructed in this devilish false teaching. You may say, "I don't have anything to do with that system." When you pay your taxes, you are buying school buses and furnishing the gasoline. It is actually against the law, because it is a

parochial school. Come on, you start a private Christian school and go to the state and ask them to send a bus out to haul your children in. They will laugh you to scorn, but this deceptive thing is getting it done. Any number of Catholic priests and sisters, because of the shortage of school teachers, are teaching in public schools; they receive the same wages as other school teachers, but refuse to pay a penny of income tax. I just mention a few ways that this deceptive power is taking hold of our nation.

Someone may question, "How can it do that?" Well, there is nobody exposing them. The history books used to, and preachers in the pulpit used to; but little by little, they were silenced. Now, when someone does raise his voice against that system, people say that he has a bad spirit. I am merely doing the same thing that preachers have done in past ages and telling the same story, because it has not changed.

The Earth Helped the Woman

The dragon of the 12th chapter, the Pagan Roman Empire with all

its infidelity and idolatry, did not go down without a struggle. The Bible said that the dragon persecuted the woman who brought forth the man child. This specifies the particular woman, the true part of the church.

In A.D. 284 Diocletian, a pagan, took the imperial throne, and for ten years, the Christians suffered more severe persecution than they ever received from old pagan Rome. He set out to burn all the copies of the Word of God, and he was about to erase every Christian off the face of the globe. But, Revelation 12:16 tells us, "And the earth helped the woman. . . ." In A.D. 300 Constantine, who professed Christianity, but did not really have the experience, took the throne and declared Christianity a religion of the empire by the law.

Christianity became the official state religion over the Roman Empire; everyone was forced to accept it as their religion. This merely ended up just exactly as you could imagine without me making a statement: a great number of pagans, who were never converted, simply adopted Christian practices with no reality in the heart. Right there was a seed bed for the devil to start to work.

Brother, that happens right here. Whenever we just practice the customs of Christianity, with no reality in our heart, we are just smoothing up a good seed bed for the devil to start doing his work in. My friend, in those days great numbers who were never converted claimed to be Christians with no reality in their heart. This threw a bad influence on the true church, and many Christians relaxed their efforts and endeavors to witness for God.

This is why a pastor has to get stirred once in awhile. If too many people feel free who have no experience, it has a bad influence on Christians who are striving to do right. It will make them weary, and the devil will work on them and say, "What's the use?" This is exactly what worked on the early

church to the point that the devil was able to break through upon her and break her down, and as far as the outward appearance was concerned, he overcame her.

We have a definite responsibility to keep the church clean. If we allow too much hypocrisy, the devil will overcome us as a congregation. He does not ask for a very large number to start in with. Please do not take me wrong. We want sinners in the congregation, because that is all God can make saints out of. Right now, however, I am referring to men and women who merely adopt Christian customs. They go along and outwardly look like a saint, yet the spirit they manifest and the action they take many times prove not to be Christian. This has a killing, chilling effect on men and women who would be fervent for God.

The devil wants the tares among the wheat; he gets more accomplished that way. Why? Brother, with the best we can do as a congregation to live right, the ones who are wrong stick out like a sore thumb. When the world sees them, they will overlook ten other good people. When they see them hypocriting, they just mark off the whole church right there. This throws a bad influence, and many true Christians relax their vigor and witness which produces a falling away.

Papal Rome

Now, let us consider this first beast and what it came up out of. Verse 1 of our Scripture text says that it rose up out of the sea. According to Revelation 17:15, the waters are people, and according to Isaiah 57:20, the sea is not just people, but wicked, unsaved people. So, right out from among people who were not right with God, we have a beast rising up which is going to rule the world for a few hundred years. Once again, we remind you that in exposing the evils of this system, we have no

person or persons in mind.

Revelation 13:1 tells us, "And I . . . 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." We are talking about a leopard-colored beast. The Roman Empire in its pagan state was symbolized by a red dragon with seven heads and ten horns. In the pagan state, those horns were on the head; Rome was under seven forms of government.

This beast we are now studying is the same empire. It still has seven heads and ten horns, but the crowns have moved off the heads onto the horns. The ten horns symbolize the ten kingdoms that the Roman Empire was broken into, and the crowns denote ruling power. So what we actually have is the same Roman Empire coming up under the political reign of ten kingdoms, with a name of blasphemy on his heads.

Verse 2 further describes this beast: "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." This is a picture of the Roman Empire under papal power, or under the one-man rule of the Pope. Ask any historian what power followed Rome-Pagan, and every one will tell you that it was Rome-Papal, or Rome in a papal state.

Daniel saw some of these very things, so let us read Daniel 7:1-8: "In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

"The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it

was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and to another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things."

To find out who these beasts were, let us read verses 15-17: "I Daniel was grieved in my spirit, the midst of my body, and visions of my head troubled me. I came near unto one of them that [talking about the angel that was there] stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things. These great beasts, which are four, are four kings [or four kingdoms], which shall arise out of the earth." We can say these beasts were kingdoms because verse 23 says, ". . . the fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom. . . ." So these beasts symbolize four kingdoms that were to rise up out of the earth.

Old and New Testament Agree

Daniel received the dream during the Babylonian Empire (the lion). Following that were the Median-Persian kingdom (the bear), the Grecian kingdom (the leopard)

and then the Roman Empire, symbolize by this great beast. Rome conquer all these kingdoms and dominated the whole then-known world. He said in verse 23, ". . . the fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces."

Daniel 7:24-25 tells us: "And the ten thorns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise [the eleventh kingdom] after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

I want you to consider the parallel between Daniel's beast and the beast of the Revelation. When Daniel saw this power, it was a political power only. When John saw it, it was a political-religious power. I want you to see that it is the same Roman Empire.

They are both a blasphemous power. Daniel 7:25 reads, "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the is" Revelation 13:6 says same thing. They both make war against the saints (Daniel 7:21 and Revelation 13:7). They both had mouths speaking great things: Daniel 7:8 and 20 and Revelation 13:5. They are both to continue the same space of time: Daniel 7:25 and Revelation 13:5.

Somebody may ask, "Why is this beast spotted like a leopard, have the feet of a bear, and the mouth of a lion?" My friend, this beast which we are studying was a consolidation of all the previous kingdoms. In other words, all these kingdoms which he swallowed up were consolidated into one, strong Roman Empire which ruled the world.

Revelation 13:2 tells us that this great beast got his seat and great authority from the dragon. Papal Rome will tell you that they received their authority through apostolic succession, but the Bible said they got their authority from the dragon-and the dragon got from the devil. In fact, the Revelation comes right out and tells you that this is the devil's sanctuary, or the devil's church; the man of sin is at the head of it (2 Thessalonians, 2nd chapter).

Church and State

Revelation 13:3 says, "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed. . . ." When the church rose up to a certain degree, she brought forth a deadly blow against pagan Rome, but when the persecution let up, the church became complacent and the wound was healed.

Truth will put a wound on this beast. That is why they fight you so when you put the truth out. This is why they took it out of the history books, and this is why they discourage it being taught in the churches. Truth wounds them. Truth stops their efforts. Truth exposes them.

In the very beginning of the reigning of Papalism, when the truth was laid on it, they wounded the one power that it was living under in the early days. The church wounded one of its heads and brought it down. They could have kept right on, got the rest of the heads and brought them down; but brother, they began to compromise, and the wound they put against it was healed.

We are seeing a living expression of it today. In the next message, we will be studying about the second beast, Protestantism. The word *Protestantism* means that you protest Roman Catholicism. Brother, they put the heat on them. Martin Luther himself about wounded it to death by putting the truth on it. The

Wesleys, and others also, put the truth on it. They wounded her and almost killed her, but what is Protestantism doing today? Putting the salve on, healing the wound that was made. The very reformation movement, in too great a degree, is healing any wounds.

When our reformers, Brother D. S. Warner and other good brethren, came out, they laid the Word out and let the chips fall where they might. Roman Catholicism was wounded, but Protestantism was also wounded. Men and women living in sin and hypocrisy were hurt under the sound of the Gospel. But what has happened today? The successors of that same movement are trying to heal the wounds that were made by the truth. If God wounds somebody with the Word, He will heal them if they will repent. If they will not repent, all the patting on them you can do will not help them a bit. So, Papalism received a real wound, but it was healed.

The Truth of the Matter

Verse 4 gets very strong, "And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast. . . ." Roman Catholicism worshipped the dragon by adopting the same rites and ceremonies that old paganism had. They worshiped the dragon. The high priest of the pagan religion back there was Pontifex Maximus; he claimed spiritual and civil authority over the affairs of men. The Pope of Rome possesses the same title, Pontifex Maximus; he claims the same title and he claims the same power over the spiritual and temporal affairs of men. He not only possesses the same title and makes the same claims, but he is also clad in the same attire. The pagans wore scapulars and metal images to shield them from the ills and dangers of life, and Roman Catholicism does the same.

How else do they worship the dragon? They have the process of canonization. The pagans had it;

deification is what it was called then, but Roman Catholicism calls it canonization. The pagans burned incense and worshipped their great men as gods after their death. Today, Roman Catholicism canonizes the saints and offers prayers to them and sets special days of homage to them, the departed souls of the righteous. They killed Paul and Peter, and now they name their churches after them and pray to them. Papalism is the worship of the Pope, Virgin Mary, and the saints. Roman Catholicism does not worship God. She does not even profess to worship God. Again, we want to make it clear that in exposing the evils of this system, we desire to hurt no one.

Now, may it be made plain that Mary is not the mother of God; Mary was not the mother of the Son of God. The Son of God lived from eternity; He was alive before He took on the likeness of sinful flesh. Mary was the mother of the physical part of Jesus Christ; she was not the mother of God.

Consider the words of Jesus when He was teaching and they told Him that His mother and brethren sought Him. He said: "Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? . . . whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother" (Matthew 12:48-50).

She had fulfilled her purpose of bearing, the physical part. The fleshly part was what died on the Cross, but not God. No, the real Son of God, through the eternal Spirit, offered Himself on the altar. That, inner part could not die, just the same as the soul in you cannot die.

I am against this teaching that hell is just extinction, that after the judgment you just go to hell and you are dead and do not know anything. No sir, your soul will live for ever and ever, either in Heaven or in the place of the lost to be tormented for ever and ever.

Mary is not the mother of God.

She is no one to pray to. I am so glad for the truth that lets me know there is not one person between me and God, but Jesus Christ. He is the only mediator. Paul wrote to Timothy, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5). That leaves the woman, Mary, out. There is no need to try and get Mary to do anything for you. She is dead as far as her body is concerned, and her spirit is resting in Paradise with the other saints. You can pray for the next sixty-five years, but she will never hear you.

The Man of Sin

Someone may ask, "How can you know that the Pope is the man of sin?" Let us read Revelation 13:18, "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast [when he talks about 'the' beast, he is talking about the first one he has mentioned here in the 13th chapter]; for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

The Pope, my friend, on his helmet, his mitre, and the locket he wears around his neck has the words *Vicarius Filiidei* in Latin, which means, "I am vicar of the son of God." In other words, it means: "I'm head of the church. I can forgive sin like the son of God. I can send you to Heaven or I can send you to hell." Now, take *Vicarius Filiidei* and break it down:

V	5	F	0
I	1	I	1
C	100	L	50
A	0	I	1
R	0	I	1
I	1	D	500
U	5	E	0
S	0	I	1
	112		551

This number equals 666

This is the number of a man. What man? Not one particular Pope but the office. It is the man in the

office who says he is vicar of the Son of God. So, his number is 666, the number of a man.

Marcus Agrippa built a large building in Rome called the Partheon, dedicated to the gods of the Roman Empire. When you came up to Rome, you did not have to bring your god with you; the Pantheon had every god in it which was worshiped in the Roman Empire. You could go down to the Pantheon, find your god, do obeisance to him, and go your way.

In A.D. 610 Pope Pontiff Maximus IV reconstructed it and took the name off of it; it was called *The House of the Blessed Virgin and All Saints*. It still has that name. Now, the idols that Agrippa had in there are still there yet today; the only difference was that they changed the names. One of the gods was Jupiter; they reconstructed it and put "Paul" on it. One of the gods was Venus; they put "Mary" on it.

Now the Catholic priests go into that place, bow before the same statues that the old heathen priest bowed before, exactly the same statues with different names on them, and prostrate themselves before idols and images. This is who the Revelation said this beast worshipped the dragon, and he is doing it yet today. Right in the city, Roman Catholic priests are doing ovation before stone image; just as the pagans did. Papalism was just given a new name, a Christian name, but Roman Catholicism is just as corrupt and dark as paganism ever was. It is the same pagan worship. There is no God in it, and there is no true worship in it.

Somebody may say, "Well, I know good people who are in that system." I do too, but the Bible still says, ". . . Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Brother, there is no exception; there is no other way. You can wear yourself out, go to Rome, kiss Peter's toes, or hold a million-dollar mass, but you are going to hell unless you are born again.

Countless millions are deceived under this thing. Many Roman Catholics stand aghast when you try to tell them some of these things, because the church today has glossed it over. They are selling people the idea that they are Christian now. Well, why do they still bow before the old images? Mark it down, when honest hearts hear the truth, they will accept it.

Someone may contend, "Well, Brother Wilson, don't you think that a Roman Catholic, since he lives in America, has a right to have freedom of choice?" Yes, he has a right to have freedom. If he wants believe that several saints and Mary are between him and God, that is his right, but he also has the right of hearing the truth. What he does with it is up to him, but it ought to be his right to hear the truth.

Darkness and Deception

Let us come from the Old Testament to the New Testament. Let us come out of darkness into light. What was the smoking incense back in the Old Testament? It was a type of the prayers of the saints now. What were the seven lamps in the old temple? A type of the light that the children of God manifest through their lives. But in the darkness of Catholicism, they still light the candles; in darkness, they still burn incense; in darkness, they still carry golden censers; in darkness, the altar boys, just as they worked in the pagan temple, are still working.

At Rome, my friend, in the temple of Vesta, where they worshiped the god of hearth and home, families gave their children (little girls) as young as three years old; by the time they were ten, the priests were using them, immorally. The same things follow today; families give their children to the Roman Catholic Church. All I have to stand on is the testimony of priests and nuns who have been saved. They will tell you the same immorality still goes on, all under

the name of Christianity. It is rank. It stinks. It is corrupt. It is foul. There is no God in it. We are merely crying out against the system and the terrible deception that the devil is using to hold people in. It is not our intention to offend any person. Oh, how the truth needs to shine forth. I say, this is just the old dragon in Christian garb.

Let us now read Revelation 13:7, which says, "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." This merely shows the awful, persecuting power of Papalism. It is still there; the only thing that is saving my neck right now is the laws of the land. As we read in Daniel, they have power to change laws, and they are changing them. They do it so slyly that the average American does not even know what is going on. They are sitting back and laughing at us as fools. Why? We say they are wrong, but we support their cause—deceptive, terribly deceptive.

The Bible tells us, and history, that the armies moved at the church's command—I am talking about war against the saints. In the early days, to claim real salvation and put your faith in Christ alone meant sudden death, or torturous death. Just as we so lightly and nonchalantly put faith in Christ, many of the early Christians had to sign their faith with their own blood, but they were true. God used those people to hold the seed of the true church right down through those days of darkness.

During those 1260 years of dark ages, there was no Gospel preached. Rome confiscated and burned the Bibles. The Bibles they did have were translated into Latin so that the average poor person could not understand it. You had to be an educated person to understand it. This is just more of their deceptions over in this day. Until recently, Catholics were told not to even read the Bible. If they wanted to know

anything about the Bible, they were to go to the priest to have it explained to them.

What was the idea behind it? To keep them in darkness. Up until about the same period of time, it was considered a hideous sin for a Roman Catholic to attend a Protestant service or to listen to a Protestant preacher on the radio. Why? They claimed that we were all heretics, but they were afraid someone would receive some light or truth.

Someone may question, "Why have they loosened these restraints?" By that time, the devil had already done such a work on the Protestant churches that he knew a Roman Catholic could go in and sit down and never hear a thing against his system of religion. Brother, the devil has things so well fixed that he has some people afraid to say anything.

We Only Have One Holy Father

Revelation 13:6 says, "And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God. . . ." How does he open his mouth in blasphemy? By claiming God's authority, by claiming the names that belong to God alone. What kind of name does he take that belongs to God alone? Holy Father. In John 17:11, Jesus addressed God as the Holy Father. He said, "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are." He claims the name of Holy Father; he claims the name Lord God the Pope; he claims the name King of the World. Even though he is not able to reign that way, he believes he is anyway.

Let us read a portion of Revelation 13:10, "He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity" The Pontifex Maximus ruled the then-known world, but God got hold of Martin Luther to start with, and others right before him (John Huss, John Wycliffe). They took the Gatling guns of truth and drove that fellow clear back into captivity.

The Pope still says he is king of the world, but he is bound to the Vatican. He doesn't have a bit of power to rule anywhere but in the Vatican. What put him back in there? Truth. What is letting him out today? People are not teaching the truth. He is taking more liberty and telling you that he is really king of the world. Brother, truth will put him back into captivity.

If you want to read a book that will stir your blood, read *Martin Luther, The Lionhearted Reformer*. When Luther took hold of the truth that the just shall live by faith, and took a stand against the Roman Catholic Church, they tried to kill him, but they had a man on their hands that they could not kill. Just that one bit of truth, the just shall live by faith, cut them down and almost wrecked the Roman Empire. What should we be able to do today, if we ride with the full message of truth, declare it, and set it forth? Don't be afraid, saints; truth will win the battle. There is nothing that can stand up against truth. The gates of hell cannot prevail against the truth that the church is built upon and stands for.

Those Who Worship the Beast

Revelation 13:8 tells us, "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him. . . ." Verse 6 tells us, "And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven." The heaven referred to here is not over in God's Heaven, but the heavenly place that Christians live in. From here on, we will be dealing with two kinds of people: Some dwell on the earth; they are building on the sand that Jesus talked about. We either build our experience on the Rock or on the sand. Those who dwell in heaven are those who have been lifted up, by the power of God, into heavenly places. The devil is against you when you dwell up there, and he has gone out until all that dwell on

the earth, all who do not have a real experience with God, whose names are not in the Book of Life, are worshiping him.

Thank God, I am not worshiping him, friend. I am not only not worshiping him, but I am not giving him any credit either. By the grace of God, I am going to expose him every time I get a chance. My name is in the Lamb's Book of Life. Thank God, I know what it is to come in old-time repentance, confess my sin, and have the blood of Jesus Christ cleanse me from all sin.

My friend, through salvation, the life of the blood through the eternal Spirit of God comes within you and makes you able to live and reign with Christ, right here on the earth. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). It will not only make you free, but it will also keep you free.

Brother, the devil does not quit; he is a clothes-changing artist. As soon as he got uncovered here, he changed his clothes and came up some other way. He is not going to quit until the world comes to an end. If you will take the truth, obey the truth, and live by the truth, it will keep you free from everything that the devil can come up with.

Know, Love, and Live the Truth

Revelation 16:10 will tell you more about that beast. When the vial of judgment was poured out on it, the Bible said that his kingdom was full of darkness. There is no light in it. It is all a work of darkness. When you begin to understand the Word of God, the devil's only power over you is darkness and deception. If he can keep you in darkness, you are not going to be saved. After you get saved, if he can deceive you through the power of deception, he will bring you down; but if you can reign over darkness and deception, you have it made. You can live consistently for God.

Someone may contend, "That

was back when Papalism sprouted forth and reigned as a world power. Why should you even be troubled about it?" Because Revelation, Chapter 16, says the spirit of the beast has gone out to the whole world. He has gone out to the Church of God. My friend, he is knocking on every one of our hearts' doors, the doors of our minds. What do he want to do? He wants to bring in a work of darkness, making you think that he is bringing you light in order to bring you down and bring you under. Brother, your power with God is where you start in truth.

Jesus said, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets and . . . if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Not only the spirit of the beast, but also the spirit of Protestantism and of the dragon have been turn loose. When He said that if it were possible, they would deceive the very elect of God, that statement lets us know that everybody but the elect are going to be deceived.

If it were possible, they would deceive the very elect. How may the elect not be deceived? You must know the truth, love the truth, and live the truth. If you do not know the truth, a false prophet will lead you astray. Then if you know the truth and do not love the truth, you can be deceived. Then, if you know truth and say you love the truth but do not live the truth, James said that you will deceive your own self. So, know the truth, love the truth, and live the truth.

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