

This morning, I am continuing my sermon series through the book of Revelation, the last book in the Bible. Revelation was written by a man named John: either the apostle John who wrote the gospel and the letters 1,2, and 3 John, or another John, an elder in the early church. It was written to 1<sup>st</sup> century Christians, and is primarily concerned with encouraging believers who were undergoing intense persecution and suffering at the hands of the Roman Empire.

As I have said every week, one of the keys to reading and understanding Revelation is to read it according to its genre. Revelation is apocalyptic literature. In apocalyptic literature, matters of the future or the spiritual realm are unveiled, usually through the agency of angels, in visions, lurid colors and with many crazy symbols. Apocalyptic literature is very visual. Revelation is not meant to be taken literally the way we would take a historical book literally. What I mean by that is that I believe John wrote down the visions as he actually saw them, but the visions he saw were highly symbolic and not literally what is happening in the material world. For example, instead of saying “Jesus is the judge” it shows Jesus with a sword coming out of mouth. Instead of saying Jesus is sovereign over his church, it shows him holding seven stars in his hand, which are the angels of the seven churches. John actually saw this scene, but that does not mean that when we see Jesus, we’re going to have to come in from a side angle in order to avoid getting stabbed by a sword coming out of his mouth.

I also think it is important to mention that there are different interpretative schools when it comes to Revelation. There is one school that sees this as entirely meant for 1<sup>st</sup> century believers. There is another that sees it as laying out what will happen in the end times. The third view, the one I believe is the correct approach, sees Revelation as a book addressed to 1<sup>st</sup> century believers but that also shows what life is like for believers in the world from Jesus’ resurrection and ascension all the way until he comes again. In other words, it is relevant to the 1<sup>st</sup> century believers, it is relevant to us today, and it also has something to tell us about the end times. More specifically, what I see happening in these middle chapters of Revelation is that John is being given visions about what is happening for believers from the time of Jesus to the time He returns in four cycles of seven, with each cycle highlighting different aspects. You have seven seals, followed by seven trumpets, followed by seven signs that we will look at today, followed by seven bowls in next week’s vision. There are some interpretive schools that see these visions differently, as what will happen chronologically in the end times, and they take these visions much more literally. As you will see, I take these visions to be much more symbolic and applicable to the entire church age as well as the end times.

My approach in this series is to not get bogged down in all the arguments and in interpreting every little symbol, but to major in the majors. In the passage we are about to read, we could get lost in speculation about who the beast and the false prophet are, for instance, but I believe it will be much more profitable to meditate on what we learn from this passage about the enemy, Satan, spiritual evil, and how to stand against him.

Let's read the passage:

**Revelation 12:1 - 15:8** - *A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. <sup>2</sup> She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. <sup>3</sup> Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. <sup>4</sup> His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. <sup>5</sup> She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. <sup>6</sup> The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. <sup>7</sup> And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. <sup>8</sup> But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. <sup>9</sup> The great dragon was hurled down-- that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. <sup>10</sup> Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. <sup>11</sup> They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. <sup>12</sup> Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short." <sup>13</sup> When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. <sup>14</sup> The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach. <sup>15</sup> Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. <sup>16</sup> But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. <sup>17</sup> Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her*

*offspring-- those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.* <sup>NIV</sup> **Revelation 13:1** *And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. <sup>2</sup> The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. <sup>3</sup> One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. <sup>4</sup> Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?" <sup>5</sup> The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup> He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. <sup>7</sup> He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. <sup>8</sup> All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast-- all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world. <sup>9</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear. <sup>10</sup> If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints. <sup>11</sup> Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. <sup>12</sup> He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. <sup>13</sup> And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. <sup>14</sup> Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. <sup>15</sup> He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. <sup>16</sup> He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, <sup>17</sup> so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. <sup>18</sup> This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666.* <sup>NIV</sup> **Revelation 14:1** *Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. <sup>2</sup> And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. <sup>3</sup> And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except*

*the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. <sup>4</sup> These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. <sup>5</sup> No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless. <sup>6</sup> Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth-- to every nation, tribe, language and people. <sup>7</sup> He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water." <sup>8</sup> A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries." <sup>9</sup> A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, <sup>10</sup> he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. <sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name." <sup>12</sup> This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus. <sup>13</sup> Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them." <sup>14</sup> I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one "like a son of man" with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. <sup>15</sup> Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." <sup>16</sup> So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested. <sup>17</sup> Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. <sup>18</sup> Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe." <sup>19</sup> The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. <sup>20</sup> They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia. <sup>NIV</sup> **Revelation 15:1** I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues-- last, because with them God's wrath is completed. <sup>2</sup> And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God <sup>3</sup> and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: "Great*

*and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. <sup>4</sup> Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."*

There are **seven signs** in this passage – the dragon and the woman, the beast from the sea, the beast from the land, the Lamb & the 144,000, the proclamation of the gospel and judgment, the Son of man's harvest, and the saints victory. **Once again, the main message is that although believers will suffer at the hands of the world because of their faithfulness to Jesus, God will protect their faith and they will find eternal rest while those who do evil are judged.** What is unique about this passage is that it peels back the curtain even further to show the **spiritual battle** going on behind the worldly struggles.

This passage has a lot to say about Satan and spiritual evil. As CS Lewis put it:

*"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them."*

I am going to try to find the healthy middle ground in this sermon. What do we learn from this passage about Satan and spiritual evil? Keep in mind:

***1 Peter 5:8*** - *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

### **1) Adversary, the enemy of God and His people**

Revelation 12 begins with a vision of a woman about to give birth, and a dragon with seven heads and ten crowns waiting to devour the child.

*4 - The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born.*

But this child, who we find out in v. 5 is Jesus, the one who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter, is protected and snatched up to God and to his throne. The imagery is drawn from Psalm 2.

How many of you have ever received Christmas cards with this picture on it? After the child is taken up to heaven, there is a battle in heaven between Michael and his angels and the dragon and his angels, and the dragon is cast down.

<sup>9</sup> *The great dragon was hurled down-- that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*

He is sent out of heaven because by Jesus' death and resurrection, he no longer has any basis for accusation. But the dragon is not done

*12 - But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."*

The dragon pursues the woman, which is a clue that it is not just Mary but that the woman represents the believing community out of whom the Messiah comes. But God protects her. Chapter 12 ends with this:

<sup>17</sup> *Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring-- those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.*

So we have this behind-the-scenes look at the spiritual battle that is raging. **Satan, which means "adversary,"** in the original Greek, is a fallen angel hell-bent on destroying the Messiah, and then, when he can't, destroying all who follow Him.

The first thing we learn about Satan from this passage is that he is our adversary, our enemy. He is a fallen angel, a powerful spiritual being, but created, and limited. He is not omnipotent or omnipresent. He hates God and he hates you. He wants to destroy what God loves. And he has many other fallen angels, demons, who want to destroy you and God's plan as well.

## 2) Accuser & slanderer

<sup>10</sup> *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.*

The Greek word “Diabolos” means accuser or slanderer. He is like the prosecutor in the heavenly court, laying out all the reasons we deserve God’s wrath.

One of Satan’s strategies is accusation. How does Satan accuse? Consider four examples, taken from Thomas Brooks’ Precious Remedies against Satan’s Devices:

- 1) **Get you to think of your sins more than your Savior** – measure yourself by what you’ve done or haven’t done instead of by what He has done for you
- 2) **Cause you to obsess over past sins and the consequences that can’t be undone** – abortion, divorce, adultery, or any number of other sins you may have committed.
- 3) **Convince you that your troubles are punishment from an angry God** – you deserve this for your sins.
- 4) **Convince you that a real Christian wouldn’t have the struggles you have** – no real Christian would struggle like this. He can especially use this against new Christians.

How do we overcome this?

*<sup>11</sup> They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death*

The blood of the Lamb – Jesus paid the penalty for all our sins. He is our defense attorney, pleading our case before God the Father. Father, I have taken their punishment. It would not be just to punish them a second time. They should go free. The word of our testimony – we confess Christ and His death for us. We are forgiven and declared not guilty.

**Romans 8:33-35** - *Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-- more than that, who was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?*

Satan accuses, and Christ intercedes for us. Satan is cast down, for his accusations have no power.

### 3) Deceiver & liar

In ch. 13, we see Satan, the dragon, gather together two other beasts, one from the sea and one from the land, to form an unholy Trinity. All through this passage you see how Satan deceives, trying to mimic the truth in a way that leads others astray.

<sup>3</sup> *One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. <sup>4</sup> Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"*

Fatal wound but healed, like a resurrection. Could be Rome under Nero and then Domitian. Then comes the second beast:

*He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. <sup>12</sup> He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. <sup>13</sup> And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. <sup>14</sup> Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he **deceived** the inhabitants of the earth.*

They are deceived by his miraculous powers. They are an unholy Trinity, he looks like a lamb, he performs miraculous signs, and by his deception he turns people from God to follow Satan. The mark of the beast means they belong to him. His number is 666, man's number, imperfection.

**Remember that Satan first shows up in the Bible as the serpent in Genesis 3, deceiving Eve** to disobey God and eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. From the beginning, he is a deceiver, a liar, twisting the truth just enough to cause believers to turn away from trusting in and obeying God.

This is Jesus speaking to the Pharisees:

**John 8:44** - *You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

Satan masquerades as an angel of light.

**2 Corinthians 11:14-15** - *And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup> It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.*

And Jesus tells us that Satan will go on using false prophets and false teachers to deceive us until the end:

**Matthew 24:3-5,11,23-24** - *As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one **deceives** you. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will **deceive** many... and many false prophets will appear and **deceive** many people... At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. <sup>24</sup> For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to **deceive** even the elect-- if that were possible.*

**2 John 1:7** - *Many **deceivers**, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the **deceiver** and the antichrist.*

Know the truth so that you can sniff out the deception.

#### 4) Tempter

<sup>8</sup> *A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."*

Babylon is Rome (1 Peter 5:13), but also represents any anti-Christian nation.

<sup>16</sup> *He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, <sup>17</sup> so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.*

Tempted towards allegiance to Satan. In v. 16-17, we see that they were going to be harmed economically unless they would acknowledge Satan. In the historical context, the 1<sup>st</sup> century believers needed to sacrifice to the gods of the trade guilds or acknowledge Caesar as Lord in order to be a part of the trade guild. Otherwise,

they would lose money. Satan knows how to tempt each of us. He knows what we want, what we need, what we are vulnerable to, where we are insecure.

Satan is also the tempter:

**Matthew 4:1-3** - *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."*

He tempts us to sin so that he can get a foothold, get his hooks in us. Remember Ephesians 4:26 - *Don't let the sun go down while you are angry, and don't give the devil a foothold.* When we believe falsehood, we give him a foothold.

**Think of your life as a house.** Jesus uses that metaphor himself in Luke 11 when talking about how demons can affect you. Giving the devil a foothold is like leaving the door open, even it is just a crack, so that he can come inside. Not many of you would be comfortable sleeping with all your windows and doors wide open. But that is what many of you are doing spiritually. You rest, but you have left openings to the influence of demons everywhere.

**John 10:10** - *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

**James 1:13-15** - *When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; <sup>14</sup> but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

Four examples of strategies Satan uses for temptation:

**a) Present the bait and hide the hook**

Satan shows the short-term pleasures but hides the long-term misery.

*"Evil rarely looks evil until it accomplishes its goal; it gains entrance by appearing attractive, desirable, and perfectly legitimate. It is a baited and camouflaged trap." Klyne Snodgrass*

It will feel so good – the flirtation, the attention, the drink, the drug, the purchase, the yelling, the laziness, the show, the ice cream. But it will lead to long-term pain.

**b) Tell you that sin is not a big deal, and that repentance is easy**

Don't make a big deal of it. You'll do it, then repent, and it will be in the past as if nothing happened. Doesn't tell you that sin hardens your heart.

**c) Tell you they've suffered enough, so you deserve what they want**

Make them bitter over suffering. I've suffered, so I deserve this. Or: I've just won a great victory and sacrificed so much, so I can take it easy and let my guard down.

**d) Convince you that holiness is not worth it**

Show Christians how many bad people seem to be having great lives. Playing by the rules doesn't pay off. Holiness is not worth it.

**5) He works through people and the powers of this world**

In Revelation, the beast represents the power of Satan working through the kingdoms and governments of this world, and the false prophet is their propaganda machine, deceiving people through false religion. The beast is a mashup of the beasts in Daniel from the various kingdoms. There will likely be evil empires and false prophets in the end times as well. If the horns fit, where them.

*Ephesians 6:12 - For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

He doesn't come in a red cape with a pitchfork. What is the beast and propaganda machine in our culture today?

**6) Defeated enemy**

*Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. <sup>2</sup> And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. <sup>3</sup> And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four*

*living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. <sup>4</sup> These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. <sup>5</sup> No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless. <sup>6</sup> Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth-- to every nation, tribe, language and people. <sup>7</sup> He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water." <sup>8</sup> A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries." <sup>9</sup> A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, <sup>10</sup> he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. <sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name."*

The believers stand with the Lord in the eternal city of Zion. And Satan and the beast will be judged. Confess and repent and trust Jesus as Lord.

***Revelation 20:10*** *And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

Satan was defeated by the death and resurrection of Jesus, and will be cast down and destroyed in the end.

***Colossians 2:13-15*** *- When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public **spectacle** of them, triumphing over them by the cross*

Do not belong to him. When the final harvest comes, where will you be?

*"If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, <sup>10</sup> he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been*

*poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. <sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name."*

Stand firm and resist him. You're not compromising with the world but with the devil himself.

<sup>13</sup> *Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.*

Important: He doesn't tell them to "win the victory" but to stand. Jesus already won the victory! Jesus defeated the devil when he died and rose again! Remember the gospel – You were spiritually dead. You could not save yourself. But He loved you so much that Jesus died for you. By grace you are saved! I am a sinner and nothing less than the death of the son of God could save me. But I am so loved that he willingly gave his life for me.

**Romans 8:31-34** - *What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-- more than that, who was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.*

This is the truth. Now put it on! Believe it! Walk in it!