

Prayer:

You could title the Book of Revelation: “The End!” The book of Revelation presents the end – the consummation of all things. The book of Genesis tells us how everything began, and Revelation tells us how it all ends.

We know that we live at the time of the end.

Slide # 1

1 Corinthians 10:11 (NKJV)

11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, **upon whom the ends of the ages have come.**

In a study of the last days, we find that the Bible teaches a distinction between the last days of the Church Age and the last days related to Israel. They are closely related in that the one segues into the other, but they are distinct.

Slide # 2

"We are currently living in the last days because we are in the church age, which is called the "last days," "last times," and "last time." However, in no way shape or form are we in the last days, as the Old Testament says of Israel. Those terms, "latter days," "last days," "latter years," "end of time," and "end of the age" all refer a time when Israel is in her time of tribulation. This is a future time, which we could very well be on the verge of entering. I believe that we are seeing the stage being set for last days or end time events of the tribulation. But we are not currently in those times at the present time."

– **Dr. Thomas Ice**

Slide # 3



Slide # 4**Revelation – Last Things**

The Church Age – Chps. 1-3
 Segue – Chps 4-5
 Last Days Judgments – Chps. 6-18
 Second Coming – Chap. 19
 Millennial Kingdom – Chap. 20
 Eternal State – Chps 21-22

The book of Revelation assumes the reality of OT revelation, then, building on it, inserts the reality of the Church Age and that which follows to a grand consummation.

The book of Revelation takes all the great themes of prophecy and brings them all to a grand conclusion. The book of Revelation comes with an “inspired outline” as seen in Rev. 1:19.

Slide # 5***Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline***

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

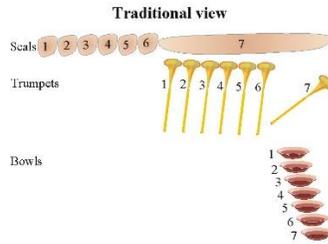
19 “Write the things which you **have seen**, and the things **which are**, and the things which will take place **after this**.”

- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – **Ch. 1**
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- **“after this” – Future (Post-Church Age)** –Ch. 4-22
 - - Scene in heaven –Ch. 4-5
 - - **Tribulation – Ch. 6-18**
 - - Second Coming – Ch. 19
 - - Kingdom – Ch. 20
 - - Eternal State – Ch. 21-22

Following the Church Age, Jesus Christ is going to take back the world for mankind through a series of worldwide judgments called the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments.

These judgments are given in chronological order and come with increasing frequency and intensity.

Slide # 6



Although the judgments are listed in chronological order, there are some interludes in which various subplots are developed that do not necessarily advance the narrative, but rather provide more background detail.

Slide # 7

JUDGMENTS and INTERLUDES

Rev. 6 – Seal Judgments

Rev. 7 [Interlude]

Rev. 8-9 – Trumpet Judgments

Rev. 10 – 11:14 [Interlude]

Rev. 11:15-19 Announcement of 7th Trumpet

Rev. 12-15 [Interlude – development of sub-plots]

Rev. 16 – Bowl Judgments

Rev. 17-18 - Epilogue

In Revelation 12, we are given an overview of the behind-the-scenes reality of spiritual warfare that governs redemptive history. There, we find that Satan is desperately trying to thwart God's Messianic Program. He did so in relation to Messiah's First Coming, and he will do so in relation to Messiah's Second Coming.

At the first coming, Satan tried to destroy the Christ Child, but he failed, and even in death Christ ascended to heaven victorious. In relation to the Second Coming, Satan, with great wrath, will seek to destroy God's people, Israel, and all the saints on planet earth, but alas, he will not succeed.

In the matter of spiritual warfare, God uses people as His tools, and Satan also uses people as his tools. The greatest human instrument that God uses is the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ Who is both God and Man in one person – the God-Man. The greatest human instrument that Satan will use is the Antichrist, who goes about passionately seeking to destroy God's people.

This ultimately is about the Christ versus the Antichrist – God's Christ versus Satan's Antichrist. And people are caught right in the middle of this spiritual warfare – having to decide on which side they will align.

In Chapter 12, we see the reality of spiritual warfare behind the scenes; in Chapter 13, we are shown how this fleshes out in history and comes to a climax in relation to the Antichrist known in the book of Revelation as “the beast.”

This person is prominent in the Scriptures in regard to the end times, being found in more than 100 prophetic passages with a great variety of titles, names, and descriptions.

Revelation 13 mentions two beasts. They are the beast from the sea, who is the Antichrist, and the beast from the earth, who is the false prophet. They are properly called “beasts” as they will wreak absolute havoc on planet Earth.

In chapter 12, we saw that at the midpoint of the Tribulation Period, the devil will be confined to the earth, and he will immediately, with great wrath, pursue the destruction of Israel and all God’s people who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Rev. 12:17).

In Revelation 12, we were introduced to 5 key players in the Tribulation Period. Revelation 13 adds two more.

Slide # 8

Revelation 12 – Key Players

- **God** (Sovereign)
- **Woman** (Israel)
- **Dragon** (Devil/Satan)
- **Child/Lamb** (Jesus)
- **Brethren** (Christians)

Revelation 13 – Key Players

- **Beast out of the Sea** (Antichrist)
- **Beast out of the Earth** (False Prophet)

And that brings us to chapter 13.

Revelation 13:1–4 (NKJV)

1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

The older manuscripts read “And **he** stood on the sand of the sea” – referring to the dragon in view in 12:17. This really concludes the thought of 12:17 where the dragon is enraged with the woman (Israel) and goes after “**the rest of her offspring**” who are not dwelling in the God-provided safe place.

It’s like the dragon (who is the devil), in standing on the sea shore, is welcoming to the scene, this beast rising up out of the sea.

In this whole section, there are a lot of connections with the book of Daniel, as it builds on what was prophetically revealed to Daniel.

Slide # 9

Daniel 7:2–3 (NKJV)

2 Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the **Great Sea**.

3 And four great beasts came up from **the sea**, each different from the other.

The figure of the sea in the Bible often represents turbulent chaos (cf. Job 26:12; Ps. 74:13-14; 89:9-10; Isa. 27:1; 57:20-21). The term “the Great Sea” in the OT consistently is used to refer to the Mediterranean Sea (cf. Num. 34:6-7; Josh. 1:4; 9:1; 15:11, 12, 47; 23:4; Ezek. 47:10-15, 19, 20; 48:28).

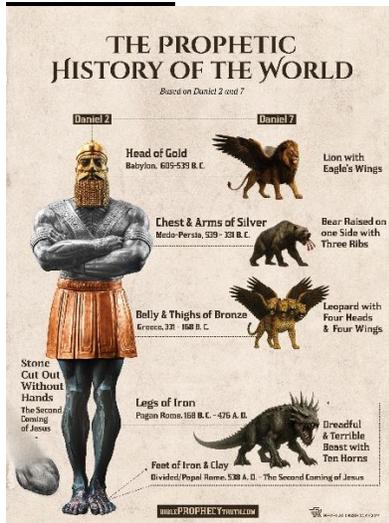
Each of the beastly leaders in history, as presented by Daniel, arose out of a context of convulsion, agitation, and turmoil in association with the Mediterranean Sea. This beast in Revelation 13:1 will be the last beast that Daniel saw in its final form. It will be no different – arising out of the revived Roman Empire of the Mediterranean basin.

Slide # 10



In Daniel, there are two separate visions of four great dominant Gentile powers that will oppress Israel during the Times of the Gentiles, as seen in Daniel 2 and Daniel 7. Those four are presented in a figurative way in both cases. However, Daniel 2 presents them from man's point of view as a beautiful metallic image; while Daniel 7 presents them from God's point of view as BEASTLY in nature.

Slide # 11



What we have in Revelation 13 is the final form of the Roman Empire, which in Daniel is presented as a nondescript beast, but Revelation 13 goes on to show it is really a composite picture – a combo of all the previous beasts.

The “beast” here as described in Revelation 13:1 is thought to represent both a person (the Antichrist) as well as an empire. Just as Nebuchadnezzar (representing the Babylonian Empire) was said to be the “head of gold” in Daniel 2:38, so likewise the first beast here in Revelation 13 is a person representing the final form of the Roman Empire – what is commonly called the Revived Roman Empire.

The idea of a beast speaks to his cruel nature, being that of an untamable, vicious, ferocious, savage monster.

This “beast” is said to have “seven heads”. It is interesting that in Revelation 12:3 this same description is given in reference to the dragon who is Satan. History is one continuous story of oppression for the Jews during the times of the Gentiles. There have been seven major power players that the devil has built this history upon, and the same truth applies to the final beast, who is the Antichrist.

Slide # 12**Seven Heads of History**

(Jewish Oppression)

1. Egypt
2. Assyria
3. Babylon
4. Medo-Persia
5. Greece
6. Rome
7. Revived Rome

The beast can have only one head at a time (cf. 17:9-10), so the heads must be successive. In contrast, the ten horns live and rule at the same time (Dan. 7:24; Rev. 17:12). – **Robert Thomas**

This beast in Revelation 13 is the climactic final head, but he is part of a composite whole – a larger picture of which he is the final part.

This beast also had ten horns and on his horns ten crowns. Horns in the Bible consistently represent power, and crowns represent ruling authority (cf. 2 Sam. 2:1, 10; 2 Sam. 22:3; Job 16:15; Ps. 18:2; 75: 4-5; 89:17, 24; 92:10; 112:9; Jer. 48:25; Mic. 4:13). We find in Revelation 17 that these are 10 kings who are contemporaries and who rule with the Antichrist.

Slide # 13**Revelation 17:12–13 (NKJV)**

12 “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

These 10 horns correspond to the 10 toes of Daniel 2:42-44 and the 10 horns of Daniel 7 (v. 7, 20, 24).

These 10 horns will form the initial nucleus of Antichrist’s kingdom, which will become worldwide in scope in a short amount of time.

On these composite heads of history on which the beast (Antichrist) is built was seen “a blasphemous name.” The idea of blasphemy is that which is injurious or irreverent towards the One true God – the God of the Bible, the God of Israel. It intends to injure God’s honor and holiness. It means to treat God with total contempt!

This blasphemous name could well be ANTICHRIST or ANTIGOD! This is what all these heads have stood for and what the final form represents in full blossom.

Slide # 14

Psalm 2:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?
2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, **Against the LORD and against His Anointed**, saying,

1 John 2:18 (NKJV)

18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the **Antichrist is coming**, even **now many antichrists** have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

The whole of history is building toward the ultimate Antichrist, but the spirit of antichrist has been at work down through the ages. All these heads associated with this final beast have all been characterized by the blasphemous spirit of antichrist. It’s what defines the world in rebellion against God.

Specifically, [this] involved the assumption of deity by the beast which is tantamount to arrogant blasphemy. – ***Robert Thomas***

2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

Here, John describes the nature of this beast in terms of what characterizes it. It was like a leopard. Leopards are known for their speed and their agility. The feet of a bear are very sturdy. This beast cannot be moved apart from an act of God. The lion roars with its mouth. It is terrifying, signifying its ravenous appetite and its ability to rip to pieces and destroy.

Slide # 15**1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)**

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a **roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**

Daniel, prophetically looking forward, mentioned these same descriptions in reference to Babylon as a lion, Medo-Persian as a bear, Greece as a leopard, and the fourth as a ferocious non-descript beast.

Here, John mentions them in reverse as if looking back on history instead of looking forward like Daniel did.

Slide # 16**Daniel 7****Revelation 13:2**

Lion/Babylon

Leopard

Bear/Medo-Persia

Bear

Leopard/Greece

Lion

Non-descript/ Rome

Beast/Composite of Predecessors

What John saw is a beast that resembles assimilated aspects of the other beast powers that have gone before. This beast in nature was like a combination of leopard, bear, and lion.

This leopard/bear/lion combination of a beast is frightful indeed!

Now it is clear why the fourth beast is not named, because there is no beast that combines the features of a leopard, bear, and lion. But the revived Roman Empire will incorporate the features of the preceding three empires. – ***Charles Feinberg***

Slide # 17**Daniel 7:7 (NKJV)**

7 “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, **dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong.** It had huge iron teeth; it was **devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling** the residue with its feet. It was **different** from all the beasts that were before it, and it had **ten horns.**

This final beast takes all the daunting, austere traits of the ruthless predecessors and combines them all into one. Note the language of dreadful, terrible, exceedingly strong, devouring, breaking in pieces, trampling.

This is a horrifying monster of a beast!

And we are not left to wonder where this beast gets its power.

Verse 2 says, “***The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.***” The dragon is Satan, as so stated in 12:9. This beast is empowered by Satan.

Satan is the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4). Three times in the gospel of John, Jesus referred to Satan as “***the ruler of this world***” (Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11).

In tempting Christ, the devil said to him that authority over all the kingdoms of the world had been delivered to him and that now he could give it to whomever he wished (Lk. 4:5-6).

Satan gives this beast (Antichrist) his ***power***. He will have the power to assert his will over the entire world, and no one can stop him. Daniel 11:36 says he “***shall do according to his own will.***” He has the full strength of the devil behind him to dominate. Now, of course, God is all-powerful, but for a season, he will allow Satan to have his way through this beast of a man.

Satan gives the beast his ***throne*** – that is, his position to rule over all the people of the whole world.

And Satan gives him “***great authority,***” which is to say the extent of his ability to control the lives of people. This will include authority over the whole world in the realms of economics, politics, and religion.

This beast/Antichrist will rule Satan’s world, fully empowered by Satan, and having the same agenda as the devil himself.

But note the Antichrist is NOT a self-made man, rather he is a DEVIL-MADE MAN. He is all high on himself, but it is the dragon (Satan) who gives him his power, throne, and great authority. And again in verse 4, it says, it is the dragon “***who gave authority to the beast.***”

The Antichrist owes everything to Satan in terms of his power and position. Of course, God ever remains sovereign over all, but in accordance with what God allows, Satan empowers the Antichrist to the fullest extent possible.

3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

We don't have to wonder which head it was that was mortally wounded. The text plainly goes on to indicate that it is the beast/Antichrist being addressed in this context (v. 3, 12, 14).

There has been lots of discussion as to what this mortal wound involves. Some think it simply appears like it is a mortal wound, but it isn't really. But that is not what the text says. It says "mortally wounded" and then follows up with "his deadly wound." A mortal wound is one that kills you. It is fatal.

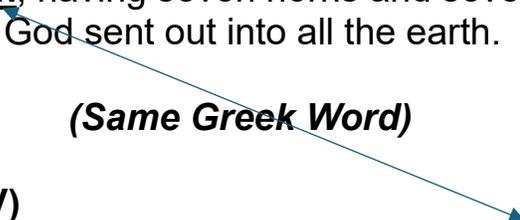
To show you all the more this is true, this is the very same language (Gk. hos esphagmenen) used of the death of Christ in Revelation 5:6.

Slide # 18

Revelation 5:6 (NKJV)

6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

(Same Greek Word)



Revelation 13:3 (NKJV)

3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

And to show you all the more, this is indeed a DEADLY wound that kills him, note the cross references in Revelation 11 and 17.

Slide # 19

Revelation 11:7 (NKJV)

7 When they finish their testimony, **the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit** will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.

Revelation 17:8 (NKJV)

8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and **will ascend out of the bottomless pit** and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

The beast is killed, goes to the bottomless pit, but then is brought back to life. This will be on display for all the world to see.

The world will be amazed, they will marvel at this resurrection from the dead, and they will follow the beast in allegiance to him.

Some theologians have had a problem with the idea of the devil – who empowers the beast, being able to bring the Antichrist back to life. And I get that because in all the Bible we find that it is God who has the power to give life. God alone is life. Jesus is “the resurrection and the life” – not Satan (Jn. 11:25). That is certainly true!

However, it would appear that this is a very unique situation in the history of the world.

Slide # 20

All Christians agree that only God has the power to resurrect the dead. This is a given. However, God can allow Satan to have this ability if He chooses to do so. I believe that’s what will happen during the Tribulation. God’s permission for Satan to do this will be part of the great delusion God will send upon those who reject Him (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12). – **Dr. Mark Hitchcock**

Realize the context here. For 3 and ½ years, the two special witnesses of Revelation 11 had a clear and powerful witness for the Lord, of which the whole world was made very aware. The witness of the 144,000 Jews of Revelation 7 clearly impacted the entire world. The worldwide judgments were clearly made manifest to the whole world. The message had gone out far and wide.

At this point, people are at the point of “***what is your final decision?***” The mark of the beast is going to force the hand of all people. And behind the mark of the beast is this resurrection of the beast/Antichrist. It will be very convincing, but it only happens because God sends them a strong delusion. I believe this is exactly where 2 Thessalonians comes in.

Slide # 21

2 Thessalonians 2:9–12 (NKJV)

9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with **all power, signs, and lying wonders,**

10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they **did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**

11 And for this reason **God will send them strong delusion,** that they should believe **the lie,**

12 that they all may be condemned who **did not believe the truth** but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

I believe this strong delusion is the resurrection of Antichrist, and the great lie is that Antichrist is God Almighty, who has power over death. It is right at this point that Antichrist will go into the rebuilt Jewish temple and declare himself to be God (2 Thess. 2:4). Because of his resurrection from the dead, the world will believe it! And they will follow him in taking the mark of the beast as the mark of their full allegiance.

His deadly wound was healed, and the world marveled and followed the beast. People believe what they want to believe. And if you persist in rejecting the truth long enough, God will give you over to great delusion, where you believe the lie of Satan (cf. Rom. 1).

The point of 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 is that these people have no excuse. They did not receive the love of the truth. They rejected it. They did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. The point is, they were confronted with the truth. They were exposed to the truth, but they rejected it and that is on them!

Slide # 22

John 5:43 (NKJV)

43 I have come **in My Father's name,** and you do **not receive Me;** if another **comes in his own name,** him **you will receive.**

Jesus came in the Father's name. He came in keeping with all that the Father had revealed about Himself through the centuries, in keeping with progressive revelation as codified in the Scripture. He came in harmony with all the prophetic Scriptures. He came, not in a vacuum but in harmony with a historical, prophetic faith laid down through the centuries in conjunction with Israel and the prophets. He came in perfect fulfillment of all the Messianic qualifications laid out by the Father! Jesus came in complete harmony with all that the Father had revealed about Himself.

But Antichrist does not come with this resume! He comes as a flash in the pan. He comes in a vacuum with just his own claims. He comes catering to lawlessness. There is no legitimate connection as Messiah to God the Father as revealed in the Bible. He is simply a Satanic imposter who is a great counterfeiter – empowered by Satan to deceive in the moment. All he has is his own claims backed up by the power of Satanic miracles, which, by the way, can be very convincing. They will be so convincing that Jesus said great signs and wonders would be in play to deceive, **“if possible, even the elect.”** (Mt. 24:24). That is powerfully convincing!

But note, when this happens, if you really know the Bible, you will know that what the devil is doing through Antichrist is right on script with what the prophets and Jesus warned about! It has all been laid out in advance, including the world being given over to this great deception that is in a category all its own.

Note the whole world will be convinced of the truth of the beast's resurrection power, just like we, as true believers, are convinced that Jesus powerfully rose from the dead. The evidence will be overwhelming, deceptively overwhelming! Just like true believers are followers of Christ (Jn. 10:27-28), so these will follow the beast! And note what it means to be a follower of the beast...

4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”

This is flat-out devil worship and the worship of Antichrist! The world will give its full allegiance to the dragon (Satan) and to the beast (Antichrist).

Worship is the thing that Satan has always wanted, and in conjunction with the beast, he will receive it. He has always wanted to be like the Most High God Who alone is worthy of worship (Isa. 14:12-15).

The thing Satan most wanted from Jesus was His worship (Matt. 4:1-11). Satan craves power and worship, those things which ultimately belong to God alone!

To worship in the Bible means to recognize something or someone as a higher power and give your allegiance to it. The basic meaning is “to bow down” in submission. In English, the word “worship” comes from an Old English word (weorthscipe) meaning worth ship, meaning the act of ascribing worth, honor, or value to God. It is the act of recognizing God’s supreme worth – that He is the most important person and the One Who is treasured most. He is worthy of our highest adoration!

Worship in the Bible is consistently connected with serving this recognized higher power.

Slide # 23

Matthew 4:10 (NKJV)

10 Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall **worship** the LORD your God, and Him only you shall **serve.**’ ”

By the way, in the Bible, to be a true follower of Christ is to be a true worshiper. To be a true believer is to be a true follower and to be a true follower is to be a true worshiper (cf. Jn. 4:23-24; 10:27-28; Phil. 3:3). And conversely, the same will be true of Antichrist.

Claiming to be God, he will demand full allegiance. He will demand that people follow him in the sense of worshiping him, as the text here in Revelation 13 goes on to show (cf. Rev. 13:8, 12; 14:9, 11; 20:4).

Satan is a counterfeiter. He never comes up with anything totally original. God is to be worshiped, so he seeks worship. God is a trinity, so we have an unholy trinity here in Revelation 13 consisting of the devil, the Antichrist, and the false prophet corresponding to God the Father, Jesus the true Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus rose from the dead, so Satan’s Antichrist seeks to imitate it. Satan is always trying to be like God, but he always comes up short. Only God can be God!

Note the spirit of their worship: They say of the beast, **“Who is like the beast?”** Thus, they confess the claims of Antichrist as he exalts himself above all that is called God, as seen in 2 Thessalonians 2:4.

This is the claim of God Almighty in the Bible. Only God is incomparable. This is totally blasphemous to put Antichrist in the place of God, saying he is incomparable (cf. Ex. 15:11; Ps. 35:10; 113:5; Isa. 40:18, 25; 46:5; Jer. 49:19; Micah 7:18).

Slide # 24

Jeremiah 10:6–7 (NKJV)

6 Inasmuch as there is **none like You, O LORD** (You are great, and Your name is great in might),

7 Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your rightful due. For among all the wise men of the nations, And in all their kingdoms, **There is none like You.**

No wonder Daniel 9:27 calls the claims of Antichrist “***the wing [highest point] of abominations***” – what Jesus interpreted as the “***abomination of desolation.***” This is the greatest abomination in the world, and the world will follow and worship accordingly!

They will say, “***Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?***” Remember in chapter 11, the two witnesses who had all power over all plagues as often as they desired (11:6) and breathing out fire on their enemies they were invincible for 3 and ½ years.

But then the beast coming up out of the bottomless pit made war on them, overcame them, and killed them (11:7).

This convinces the world that the power of the beast is greater than the power behind the two witnesses, and they will follow and worship the beast. It all seems so logical, but it is totally deceptive as allowed by God as matter of judgment! Not only did he overcome the two witnesses, but also the grave. What could be greater – so they reason.

The world will see the beast as incomparably great and invincibly powerful. They will think he is so great as to be unconquerable. And this will be consistent with Daniel 11:38, which indicates that while Antichrist claims to be God Almighty, he does have a god of sorts, which is the god of military might and power. This is what he lives for. This is his god! He is all about power!

And now, in his resurrection power, as it is perceived to be, the world will attribute to him uncontested power. He will be heralded as the power over all other powers – a trait that really belongs to God alone!

But just to let you know, their question “***Who is able to make war with him?***” is about to be answered, as seen in Revelation 19.

Slide # 25

Revelation 19:19–20 (NKJV)

19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, **gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse** [Christ] and against His army.

20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he **deceived** those who received the mark of the beast and those who **worshiped** his image. These two were **cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.**

Here is their answer! The Lord Jesus Christ, returning as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, is going to take down the beast and send him straight to the lake of fire! So much for being invincible!

All through history, there has been this great clash between worship of the true God and the worship of false gods. The very first command God gave to the Jews was, “***You shall have no other gods before Me.***” (Ex. 20:3). This is always the issue. God demands to be God! He is a holy, jealous God Who will tolerate no rivals.

This will come to a climactic head in the Tribulation Period. A great choice will be presented to the whole world in the form of God’s true Christ versus Satan’s Antichrist. All will be forced to choose!

This will be the great issue before the world – and really, this is always the great issue before the world. Who will be God? Will it be some false God, or will it be the true God as manifest in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ?

In the end, every knee with bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God (Phil 2:9-11).

Yes, Satan has power, yes, the Antichrist will exercise great authority, but only God is all-powerful, only the true Christ is LORD over all, including the devil and his false Christ.

Louis XIV (14th) ascended to the throne of France at the age of four and would rule for the next seventy-two years (1643-1715), the longest reign in modern European history.

Louis was intoxicated with his own power and became totally consumed by his own self-importance. He was a total narcissist. . Louis declared himself as the "*Great Monarch.*" He even said, "*I am the State!*"

But in 1715, King Louis XIV abdicated his throne due to his death. Being self-absorbed with a God-complex, he had planned his own funeral with exquisite detail. It was to be a spectacular tribute to his own greatness! He was to be buried in a solid gold casket that was studded with jewels. As a tribute to his majesty's greatness, a single candle burned just above the coffin as the audience sat in silence.

Suddenly, it was time for the funeral service to start. Bishop Massillon stepped out of the shadows, walked up to the coffin, and in an instant snuffed out the candle. The massive crowd was in shock: you could have heard a pin drop. Then he said, "ONLY GOD IS GREAT!"

Amen!

As true believers in Jesus Christ we say...

Only God is great!
Only Jesus is Lord and Savior!
Only our God is worthy of worship!

Are you a true worshiper?
Are you a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ?
Are you a true believer?

God is seeking for true worshipers!
This is the great issue in time and for all eternity!

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!