

/We will now begin the twelfth lecture on the book of Revelation. /We will begin at Revelation 13:11.

/Read verse 11. /Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon.

/There is another beast here. /This beast came “out of the earth.” /In verse 1, there was a beast that came out from the “sea.” /The “beast coming out of the sea” refers to the nation of the Antichrist.

/In verse 11, there is a beast that comes out from the earth. /These are groups of people who insist on social salvation, /and work hard for worldly things.

/This beast had two horns like a lamb. /This is the imitation of Jesus. /This is to come forward in the name of Christianity. /The “horns” symbolize power.

/Secularized Christianity uses its power in the world. /However, it says the beast spoke like a dragon. /It came looking like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon.

/This means that outwardly it is like a church, but inwardly it speaks of the world. /It lives in the world under the name of Christianity.

/Verse 12. /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.

/The “first beast” is seen in verse one. /The first beast refers to the nation of the Antichrist. /The first beast received authority.

/Then the second beast makes all its inhabitants worship the “first beast.” /Ultimately, the first beast is idolized. /In this way, fallen Christianity becomes part of the worldly nations and follows after them.

/For example, let’s look at liberation theology. /There is also theistic evolution. /Then there is Christian Socialism.

/People who are part of these live in the world in the name of Christianity. /Then they bring people to surrender before the Antichrist.

/Verse 13. /And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men.

/The second beast performed great and miraculous signs. /This is the beast that looks like a lamb. /It performed great and miraculous signs. /It performed a sign like that of Elijah bringing fire from the sky on Mount Carmel. /1 Kings 18:30-40.

/In the same way, the beast imitates a true prophet. /It performs miracles. /Then it entices

people.

/Through such miracles, people become astonished by the works of fallen Christians.

/Verse 14. /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.

/The second beast performed signs and deceived the inhabitants of the earth. /Then it ordered people to make an image in honor of the beast that was wounded by the sword and lived. /This is mentioned in verse 3.

/We have previously studied that this image refers to the nation of the Antichrist. /Therefore, in the last days, the nation of the Antichrist will become an idol. /Daniel 3:1. /Thus, the king of all the nations on earth becomes an idol.

/Therefore, the fallen Christians and the nations of the world work together. /Then the false prophets teach the inhabitants to “worship the king of the nations.” /Thus, the nations of the world become an idol.

/During the Japanese Empire, there was the United Church of Christ in Japan. /At the time, churches were organized by the government and were told to “obey the nation.” /Hence, a great number of people followed after idols.

/Verse 15. /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.

/The beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast. /“To give breath to the image of the first beast,” means that the image of the first beast follows the commands of the first beast. /The image of the first beast is able to speak.

/The king of the worldly nations gives commands. /Then the people must follow the commands. /If the people do not follow the commands then they will be put to death.

/“To be killed,” means that people will be stripped of their rights to live and their religious rights as well. /If they don’t worship the image of the beast, then they will be deprived of even their rights to go to the marketplace.

/Their religious freedom is also taken away from them. /Thus, the people follow the commands of the worldly nations instead of the Word of God. /It means that they will be killed if they do not follow the commands of the worldly nations.

/Verse 16. /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,

/The nation of the Antichrist and the false prophets force everyone to receive marks. /The

“right hand” symbolizes actions. /The “forehead” symbolizes thoughts.

/In this way, people receive markings on their thoughts.

/The thoughts of the people become one with the commands of the nation of the Antichrist. /To “receive a mark” means that there is unity. /All the thoughts and actions of people become united with that of the beast’s demands. /The beast becomes an idol.

/Whoever does not keep their faith will ultimately surrender to the nation of the Antichrist. /People will become possessions of the beast, and will speak in the same way as the beast.

/The small and great, the rich and poor, the free and enslaved will all receive marks.

/This means that they will then follow the thoughts and plans of the false prophets. /The people will speak the same things as the false prophets. /That is what the markings will do to the people.

/Verse 17. /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.

/Whoever does not receive the mark cannot be bought or sold. /This means that if the thoughts and actions of the people are not uniform with that of the false prophets, then they cannot be bought or sold. /The mark makes people follow after the words of the false prophets.

/One cannot be bought or sold if without the mark. /This means that people will be deprived of their rights of life. /If they don’t obey the beast, then they will not be able to live.

/This is persecution of true Christians as is written in the Bible. /Here the “name of the beast” symbolizes the beast’s thoughts and actions. /The number of his name is 666.

/Verse 18. /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.

/The number of the beast is 666. /The “wisdom” is the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. /Only the wisdom of the Holy Spirit can recognize the number of the beast. /1 Corinthians 2:13,14. /The number “6” is the number of earth.

/God created the heavens and the earth in six days. /Then God rested on the seventh day. /The number seven is God’s number, and the number six is the earth’s number.

/When the earth grows, it will become number 66, /and when it is at the height of its development, it will become number 666. /This is the number of the greatest humanism. /This is ultimately Satan’s number. /This is the number of the Antichrist.

/Through history, many wondered about the meaning of the number 666. /Some people claim it is “Rome.” /Others say it is “Emperor Nero.”

/Some say it is the “Pope.” /Some even say it is the “computer.” /However, above all of that, the number six-hundred sixty-six is the devil’s number. /It is the number of the Antichrist.

/In the last days, the world will reach the height of humanism. /Then the world will act against God and persecute Christians. /Therefore, true believers must keep their faith.

/We must walk according to the Scripture and the truth. /Then we can avoid the mark of the beast and gain victory. /2 Timothy 3:12. /Luke 18:8.

/We will continue with the lecture on Revelation chapter 14.

/The title of chapter 14 is “Salvation and Judgment.” /First, the song of the 144,000. /Verses 1-5. /Second, the eternal gospel. /Verses 6-7. /Third, the sufferings of the earth. /Verses 8-11.

/Fourth, the blessed who die in the Lord. /Verses 12-13. /Fifth, the harvest of the earth. /Verses 14-16. /Sixth, the harvest of the grapes. /Verses 17-20.

/Read verse 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.

/There was a Lamb standing on Mount Zion. /The Lamb is Jesus Christ. /Our Jesus will become the sacrifice before God on the cross.

/“Mount Zion” is a spiritual land. /It is the spiritual world. /Hebrews 12:22. /It is the place where God is. /There is no change there. /It is an eternal heaven.

/There is “144,000.” /The 144,000 is also mentioned in 7:4. /The 144,000 symbolize the number of those who have been saved through belief in Jesus. /Some cults claim that literally only 144,000 people will be saved at the end.

/The 144,000 symbolize everyone who believes in Jesus. /This is a symbolic number. /This is the number of God’s appointed. /We do not know how many it really is. /It represents the great number of believers who have been saved.

/The “forehead” symbolizes thoughts. /The “name” symbolizes character. /The Father’s character is written on their foreheads. /Thus, the Father’s form is inscribed on the believers. /This is to become like Jesus.

/Verse 2. /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.

/There was a loud sound from heaven. /It was like the road of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. /This symbolizes majesty. /In this way, John received inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

/God's secret was revealed to John. /The sound from heaven was like the sound of beautiful music.

/On the other hand, there was a majestic sound like that of rushing waters. /All believers who are saved will worship God in heaven. /They will hear the beautiful sound.

/Verse 3. /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.

/There was a throne. /There were four living creatures. /The "four living creatures" refer to the angels. /The elders also worshiped God. /This is recorded in 5:9.

/What is the "new song?" /The new song is the song that we sing when our spirits become new. /It is the song we sing as our spirits mature.

/It is the song we sing to God with our hearts when we newly perceive the grace of the Lord's redemption. /The 144,000 sing this song. /This symbolizes all believers.

/Our spirits must become new every day and we must sing praises of thanksgiving before God. /Ephesians 5:19. /All believers who are saved can sing this new song. /Ephesians 4:15.

/Verse 4. /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.

/Here we see the beautiful image of those who sing the new song. /This verse speaks of those who are qualified to sing the new song. /First are those who did not defile themselves with women.

/It is said that such people kept themselves pure. /The "women" symbolize the prostitutes in the world. /This is written in 17:1. /The "prostitutes" symbolize humanism in the world. /James 4:4. /Genesis 6:2. /We need to know that the world is humanistic.

/We must not partner up with the world. /We must be obedient to the Word. /We must keep Sundays holy, /give tithes, /and overcome the luxuries and pleasures of the world.

/We must keep the conscience of our faith. /Hebrews 11:24-26. /This means that we must not partner up with the world. /It means to maintain chastity of our faith.

/Next are those who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. /They follow the Lamb to comfortable and uncomfortable places, /whether they face life or death, /to wherever the Lord leads them.

/This means that they obey. /Because we love Jesus, we must follow wherever the Lord leads us. /Hebrews 11:8. /Acts 20:24. /Song of Songs 4:8.

/We must follow even when the Lord leads us through the valley of the shadow of death. /We must follow the Lord even to the mountain haunts of the leopards and the lion's dens. /If the Lord says to go to Sodom and Gomorrah or to the Valley of Achor, we must go.

/If the Lord tells us to leave our country, people, and our father's household, we must leave. /This is the way of the one who goes wherever Jesus leads him.

/Third are those purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. /The firstfruits are fruits given as offerings to God. /Exodus 23:19. /Proverbs 3:9. /James 1:18. /This is to be living sacrifices.

/We must become fragrant offerings acceptable to be received by God. /It is to offer our bodies and hearts, and materials and lives to God.

/Fourth are those who do not lie and who are blameless. /We must become faithful people.

/To lie is to become a servant of the devil. /John 8:44. /Jesus is truth and He is loyal. /19:11. /Those who are like this can sing the new song.

/Verse 6. /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.

/An angel was flying in midair and had the eternal gospel. /The angel is evangelizing in the last days of the world. /The "eternal gospel" is the Bible.

/The Bible is eternally unchanging. /The Bible also gives eternal life. /John 5:39. /Thus, we are believers who believe in the eternal gospel.

/Verse 7. /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."

/God is the Lord of judgment. /Therefore, we humans must fear God. /God is Creator, /and he also judges this sinful world. /He also saves the believers.

/The time for the Lord's judgment is near. /Therefore, we must worship God in every

aspect of our lives.

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

/Another angel said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great." /"Babylon the Great" symbolizes the humanistic world. /This world will fall at God's judgment.

/The world will be completely ruined. /However, the kingdom of God is eternal. /1 Peter 1:24, 25. /It says, "the maddening wine." /Humanism makes people drunk just like how wine makes people drunk. /This ruins people.

/Thus, God will be filled with wrath and judge the world. /God will judge this world.

/Verse 9. /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,

/Verse 10. /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.

/What happens when one worships the beast and receives his mark on the forehead? /13:16-17. /He will receive God's wrath. /Then he will be tormented day and night with burning sulfur. /There will be no end to pain and sufferings.

/When one chases after idols and the nation of the Antichrist, he will come to ruins. /Then he will be greatly tormented with burning sulfur. /Therefore, we believers must not chase after idols.

/There is a definite hell. /Luke 16:24. /Revelation 19:20. /Mark 9:46. /Revelation 20:15. /Revelation 20:10. /In this way, all sinners will receive torture for all of eternity.

/Verse 11. /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."

/Those who fail to persevere through hardships and persecutions and bow down before idols will receive torture. /Those who do not believe in Jesus, but bow down before idols will be tormented in hell for all of eternity.

/Verse 12. /This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.

/We must keep the Word of God. /We who have been saved by faith must keep God's commandments. /We must persevere and keep our faith.

/We must believe Jesus to the end and follow Him. /Following Jesus means to keep God's commandments.

/Verse 13. /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."

/It says, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." /This means that believers who died through their faith in Jesus will be blessed. /This also means that those who obey the Lord and die will be blessed.

/This means that those who die from keeping their faith will be blessed. /Unbelievers say, "when we die it is the end." /Unbelievers are afraid of death and are saddened by death. /This is because believers will be destroyed at their deaths.

/However, to us believers, death will be a blessing. /When we die, our spirits will immediately go to heaven, /and our physical bodies will go into the ground. /Then when Jesus returns at His Second Coming, our spirits and bodies will come together and we will become resurrected bodies.

/Thus, we believers will see eternal life. /Ecclesiastes 7:1. /Luke 16:22. /In this way, when we believers die, we go before God our Father. /We will find rest from the troubles of the world.

/When our days grow short on earth, our days in heaven grow longer. /God said that we will see no more troubles and will find rest. /All that we did for the Lord on earth will come to an end.

/When we go to heaven, God will comfort us. /There we will have peace and comfort in the Lord. /God also said that our deeds would accompany us in heaven. /Everything we obeyed for the Lord will remain.

/God remembers all our devotions and offerings we've given for the Lord. /God remembers the time and offerings we've given for the Lord, as well as the devotion of our lives to him.

/God remembers the hardships we received for the Lord. /God will reward us. /1 Corinthians 15:58.

/Verse 14. /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.

/At Jesus' Second Coming, He will come on a cloud. /This is a glorious image. /The one "like a son of man" is Jesus. /Jesus will come on a cloud in the future.

/Jesus had a sharp sickle in His hand. /Jesus had the sickle for harvest.



/Verse 15. /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."

/Verse 16. /So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

/The "harvest" symbolizes the believers. /In the last days, the believers will be mature in their faith. /Then God will take the believers into heaven.

/After God saves the believers, he will judge the sinful world. /Matthew 3:12. /Matthew 13:30. /The "ripe harvest" means that the faith of the believers in the world have grown even in the midst of hardships.

/It means that the faith of believers on earth grew even in the midst of hardships. /Hence, God will take us believers into storehouses in heaven.

/Therefore, as chosen believers, our faith must grow. /Our faith must grow just as the harvest becomes ripe. /Joel 3:13. /Revelation 22:11.

/As the grapes of the world become ripe, we believers must also become ripe. /The sins of the world become greater and greater. /In these times, our faith must grow greater.

/Verses 17-18. /Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. 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."

/Then it said to gather the clusters of grapes. /The "grapes" symbolize unbelievers and evil men. /The ripe grapes refer to evil that has filled up evil men.

/When evil is filled, God will judge. /Joel 3:13. /When autumn comes around, the harvest becomes ripe and the grapes also become ripe. /The holy become holier, /the evil become more wicked. /Revelation 22:11. /However, the sinful world will receive judgment.

/Verse 19. /The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath.

/God will judge the wicked. /The "winepress" is the place of war. /God will bring about a war and judge the wicked. /It is similar to the process of stepping on grapes with people's feet when producing grape juice.

/When grapes are stepped on, dark red grape juice is produced. /Similarly, in the great war, a large number of people will bleed to death. /The evil will be judged for their sins. / God judges the sinners.

/Verse 20. /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.

/“Outside the city” symbolizes the unbelieving world. /It says that the unbelieving world will be trampled in the winepress. /This means that God will bring about a war to judge the evil. /There will be a great war. /Then a large number of people will die.

/The blood that flows out of the press will flow for a distance of 1,600 stadia. /This is 284 kilometers. /There will be a river of blood of that distance. /Then the height of the river of blood will be as high as the horses' bridles.

/Then how great a number of people died for the river to rise to such a height? /Many evil people will receive judgment and die. /They will die in the war. /As the last days approach, there will be greater amounts of sin.

/In these times, our harvest must grow ripe. /When the world becomes filled with sins, we must not chase after it. /Instead, we must overcome the sinful world.

/We must follow Jesus who is the Lamb. /Then our faith must grow just like the harvest.

/We will conclude the twelfth lecture on the book of Revelation. /Thank you.