



Hunger For Truth

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Edited By: Craig Glickman -- svtday@yahoo.com
Andrew Lacroix -- andrewlacroix@yahoo.com

HUNGER FOR TRUTH
MINISTRIES

Proverbs 7:2 – Matthew 5:6 – John 8:32 – II Timothy 3:16-17 – Hebrews 4:12
“Let us Hunger For Truth”

Please note that back issues of Hunger For Truth are viewable and printable at:
www.studytoanswer.net.

It is our desire that Hunger For Truth edifies, blesses and encourages you in your walk with the Lord. Thank you all for taking the time to read this and for your prayers for us. We greatly appreciate your comments and we praise God for each and every one of you.

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The Book of Revelation (Chapter 13) (Dr. Thomas Strouse)

The following is **part 13** of a study on the book of Revelation by Dr. Thomas Strouse who is Pastor of Bible Baptist Church and Theological Seminary in Cromwell, CT (www.bbc-cromwell.org). It is a syllabus written by Dr. Strouse. It is the HFT editors desire that this study helps you grasp the deep truths within this incredible book! Please look for a chapter from this syllabus posted in upcoming issues of Hunger For Truth. We trust this will be edifying and convicting as well as a blessing and encouragement to readers. Thank you for reading. We praise God for the privilege of being able to share this study with you. May God richly bless!

The Book of Revelation / Thomas M. Strouse
CHAPTER 13

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Background

This chapter focuses on two great evil personages, the first and second beast, or the Antichrist and the False Prophet, respectively. Their nature and deception are revealed, along with the number of the Antichrist.

Exposition

Rev. 13:1-18

The First Beast (Rev. 13:1-10)

The first beast is both a system and a person, who will orchestrate a pseudo-resurrection (reincarnation [?]) and demand to be worshipped. His nature will be warlike as he has dominion over the people of the earth through the last three and a half years.

The Second Beast (Rev. 13:11-14)

The second beast, the False Prophet, will facilitate the worship of the Antichrist through supernatural miracles.

The Number of the Beast (Rev. 13:15-18)

The Antichrist will have power to control commerce by requiring all to receive his mark with his number 666.

Theological Concerns

The Antichrist will be revealed after the Rapture (II Thes. 2:2 ff.), and will be supernaturally energized by Satan. Christians will not know who he is and it is fruitless to speculate, since even if he were alive, he would not be satanically energized yet. All kinds of efforts to understand his number of 666 is speculative and cannot be comprehended until after the Tribulation begins.

Textual Issues

Rev. 13:1—the CT reads “*he* (the beast) *stood*” instead of the TR “*I stood*.”

Rev. 13:18—some MSS read 616 instead of 666.

Summary of Chapter Thirteen

The two beasts will control the political/economic and religious realms in the final years of the Tribulation, dominating the world in forceful control.

Harvest While We Can (By: Bro. Andrew Lacroix)

“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” (Jeremiah 8:20)

Jeremiah the prophet is now telling of the end of the southern kingdom. Judah, like her once northern counterpart Israel, had been in deep rebellion against God. While God is one of mercy and longsuffering, continued wickedness on the part of His chosen people resulted in the capturing of the northern kingdom. Although there were some times of revival in Judah, their time would come when mercy would be found no more for rebellious, unrepentant children. The “weeping prophet” describes the end of Judah in our text when “the harvest is past”.

Fall is a wonderful time of year. The bugs of summer are dying, the leaves begin their yearly color change, and farms all across the country begin to harvest many of their crops. Sure, while some crops can be planted and grown during other times of the year, for the most part, fall is harvest time. However, one harvest would not be cultivated in the land of Judah. For years, they had planted and harvested, just like farmers do today. They had ignored God’s command to give the land its rest every seventh year (cf. Leviticus 25:1-7). Those years of unfaithfulness had added up, and their iniquity was now full. God was going to give His land its rest, and that would commence when “the harvest was past”.

At the end, Judah was going to be overtaken by Nebuchadnezzar. This happened in the 6th century BC. As a land, their harvest was past, their summer was now over, and they were not saved. Individuals of Judah could still, like as always, come to repent before God and trust in Christ’s sacrifice yet to come, but as a land, time for repentance was gone.

America, as a country that once stood faithfully upon the precepts of God, is in the same doom as Judah. We have planted seeds of rebellion for years and are now reaping its ugly fruit (cf. Gal. 6:6-10). This nation too will have one harvest that it will not reap. When that day comes, its time for harvest will pass, and the country will not be saved. Again, individuals living here will also be able to repent of sin and place their trust in Christ’s completed work on Calvary for forgiveness, but the nation will not be able to repent.

Christ Himself had a few words to say regarding the harvest and agricultural concepts. In John 4:35 he tells His disciples that the fields “are white already to harvest”. In Matthew 13, the parable of the sower tells about the saved person and his sowing the Word of God. Now farmers are aware that not every seed planted springs up to be a fruitful crop. Let’s use a hypothetical farmer for example. If I planted 100 seeds that are to yield forth potatoes, will I get all 100 to germinate? Not all the time. If I got 89 to spring up, I would consider that a success. So let’s go back to sowing the Word of God. If I told 100 people how to be saved using the Word of God, will 100 place their trust in Christ? That’d be awesome, but it doesn’t happen that way, just like farming. I would be content with just telling 100 people how Christ died for them and their need to trust Him for salvation, but I’d love for some to come to Jesus as Savior. If even one trusted Christ, the Bible says that the angels in Heaven rejoice (Luke 15:7).

In Matthew 9:37-38 Christ tells His disciples that: “The harvest is great, but the laborers are few.” His children today are given the command to go into His harvest, which is white already and ready to reap. Yet few go into His fields and reap what is there. This was not a physical harvest like what goes on farms, but rather a spiritual harvest, where souls are ready to hear the Gospel, be saved, and are reaped for all eternity. It is up to those who have already believed on Him and saved to go into His harvest and share the Gospel with the lost. Thus, the laborers are sent out by Christ Himself to go

into His fields and reap His harvest.

The time will come, though, when this harvest too will cease. It will for America and it will for the remainder of the world as we know it. If you are not one hundred percent sure your sins are forgiven and know Christ, today is the day you need to repent of your sins and place all your trust in Christ's sacrifice on Calvary for forgiveness. One day, our summers will pass and our time to germinate into a saved, eternally grateful Christian will end. When our harvest passes, the time for repentance towards God will be over.

My two-fold challenge is this: Dear sinner, the harvest of your life will end one day, and you don't want to be at the point where you are "not saved", because all hope will then be lost and you are at the hands of God with no atonement possible. My prayer is that you will recognize your lost, hopeless condition apart from Jesus Christ and turn to Him in sorrow and repentance for your sins, and then accepting His payment and free offer of salvation. God's Word promises you eternal life when you make that decision, which you cannot lose.

I also urge you and I that are Christians: The harvest outside our doors is still just as ripe as they were in the time of Jesus Christ. While there is yet time let us redeem it, pray, and enter His fields. We don't have to go halfway around the world to share Christ. We must be willing to go halfway down the street and "preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Don't let our opportunity to reap souls in His harvest go to waste. The time to "work" will come to an end, and when it does, we will not have to labor any longer, but those without will be eternally lost.

Here is an appropriate hymn that will close our challenge:

"To the work! To the work! We are servants of God, let us follow the path that our Master has trod; with the balm of His counsel our strength to renew, let us do with our might what our hands find to do. (Chorus) Toiling on, toiling on. Toiling on, toiling on. Let us hope (and trust), let us watch (and pray), and labor till the Master comes. To the work! To the work! There is labor for all, for the kingdom of darkness and error shall fall! And the name of Jehovah exalted shall be in the loud swelling chorus, 'Salvation is free!' (Chorus) To the work! To the work! In the strength of the Lord, and a robe and a crown shall our labor reward, when the home of the faithful our dwelling shall be, and we shout with the ransomed, 'Salvation is free!' (Chorus)" (Fanny Crosby/William Doane)

Only Jesus Saves! (John 14:6)

Can a Person Know?

By: Pastor Cas Reeves

Can a person really know he is saved? The answer is a resounding **YES!**

First, the Bible declares clearly that a person can know that they have eternal life.

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God (1 John 5:13).

Second, this knowledge of knowing you have eternal life is based on the fact that this

life is in the Son and that if you have the Son, you have eternal life.

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12: He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life (1 John 5:11-12).

Third, having the knowledge of eternal life is based upon the witness of God. This witness is received by faith when a person receives Jesus Christ as his Savior by believing on the testimony of God that Jesus is the Son of God.

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son (1 John 5:9-10).

YES, a person can know he is saved and that he is going to heaven. This is what eternal life is all about – life in heaven with God forever and ever as opposed to going to hell, separated from God forever and ever. Being saved is something you can **know with conviction**, a confidence that is just like the knowledge of knowing your own name. This knowledge of being saved is not **hoping** you are saved, but **knowing** you are saved.

Do you know you are saved? -CAR

Remember The Walk (By: Pastor Cas Reeves)

The believer's life is sometimes spoken of as a walk. When I was young, my father would take me for walks in our woods. He would show me things I needed to know, so I wouldn't get lost when I walked the woods by myself. God's Word shows us how we are to walk in this life.

I. Remember the Mandates of the Walk

- A. Keep being in subjection to authority (vs. 1)
- B. Don't speak evil of others (vs. 2)
- C. Don't be feisty, but gentle (vs. 2)
- D. Keep being kind to all (vs. 2)
- E. Avoid foolishness (vs. 9)
- F. Learn to keep on maintaining good works (vs. 14)

- II. Remember the Motivations of the Walk
 - A. Don't lose focus of the love of God (vs. 4-6)
 - B. Don't lose focus of the new relationship (vs. 7)
 - C. Don't lose focus of the good and profitable (vs. 8)

Are you following God's instructions? You have His mandates and His motivations. Are you staying focused on them as you walk the Christian life?

:) Children For Christ :)

GIVE THANKS

Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

On a blank piece of paper:

1. Please write down 10 things you are thankful for.
2. Please find and write down 5 Bible verses about thankfulness in the Bible.
3. Please write down how you can be a more thankful person?

Dear Hunger For Truth Readers:

Some of you received the Hunger For Truth 10/15/14 issue twice! That was an accidental error on Bro. Craig's part that was caused by issues with my email provider. I sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused H.F.T. readers.

Sincerely,
Bro. Craig G.

<p><i>“The sweet presence of Christ eateth out the bitterness of sorrow and suffering.”</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>“We know not what prayer cannot do!”</i></p>	<p>“America is great because she is good. If America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.” <i>Alexis de Tocqueville, 1805-1859 Political Thinker, Historian</i></p>
<p>“A person has never really entered adulthood if they have not learned to follow Biblical principles in spite of where their feelings are leading them. A Christian must learn what it means to be controlled by the Holy Spirit at the point of impact.”</p>	<p>Praises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praise God for a safe trip to PA to visit family and friends from October 24-26! • Praise God for the 2014 Thanksgiving season!

Prayer Requests continued: **Prayer Requests**

- Childrens King James Bibles and gift packages being delivered to over 16,000 orphaned children in St. Petersburg Russia by Missionary Jon Zwingel and his wife this Christmas season!
- Missionary David Cloud (Recovery from pancreatitis)
- Job needs and permanent housing for Bro. Craig in CT.
- Sarra Family (Missionaries to Zambia Africa) (John – Health needs – back, liver)
- Wisdom regarding developing the new location for Heritage Baptist Church in Norwood, MA center.
- Sherrie (Sister of Bro. Craig's Fiancee Tash) (Lymph Nodes) (Heart issues)
- Wedding for Bro. Craig and Sister Tash on May 2, 2015
- Abby Lafreniere (ALS) (Wife of Pastor John Lafreniere, church planter to Fairfield, CT)
- Dr. Michael Thompson (Member of Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA) (Brain cancer)
- Pastor Gary Freeman (Race Street Baptist Church in Catasauqua, PA) who is battling colon cancer.
- Needs of the body at First Bible Baptist Church of Plainville, CT
- Needs of the body at New Hope Baptist Church of Lynn, MA
- Needs of the body at Chester Baptist Church of Chester, MA
- Missionary Tim Hawes (To Papua New Guinea) (Church Planting, Bible Translation, Agricultural Development)
- Brother Bill Moore of Heritage Baptist Church (Health needs)
- Those affected by the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines
- The condition of this nation following the abomination that has occurred with the DOMA decision.
- Needs of the body at Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA
- Salvation and needs of those affected by the tragedy in Boston, MA on April 15th 2013
- Salvation of Brother Andrew Lacroix's family
- Salvation of Wendy and friend Ben, Jacob, Kaitlyn, Sybil and Bernice (Family of Craig Glickman)

Hunger For Truth is a bi-monthly e-newsletter publication edited by Bro. Craig Glickman who is a member at First Bible Baptist Church of Plainville, CT where the Pastor is Thomas Benson and Bro. Andrew Lacroix who is a member of Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA where the Pastor is Steve Hathaway.

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Thank you for reading this. We praise God for all our dear brothers and sisters in Christ and we

greatly appreciate your prayers. May each and every one of you be richly blessed as we serve our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

His Servants,
Craig Glickman Andrew Lacroix
Prov. 3:5-6 1 Thes. 5:18

