

Revelation 12-16: The Unholy Trinity

Enver Hoxha was the Communist dictator of Albania from the time following World War II until 1985. His motto was; “Albania is all the religion an Albanian needs.” With that as his credo, he did his best to completely eradicate the Christian church from the land of Albania. Some people who watched what happens in the world of religion believed that there was not one functional church in the entire nation of Albania when he died in 1985. Some people think there might not have been a single Christian in the country. He let them leave. He did not kill every last one. He drove them out. During his years as communist dictator of China, Mao Tse-Tung put hundreds of thousands of images, statues, and murals of himself all over the major cities and the small towns. They were dozens of feet high so that people might look upon his benevolent gaze and gaze back. Joseph Stalin, who probably killed 20 million of his own people by starving them to death in order to get them under his control, wanted to be loved by his people as Papa Joe. Alexander the Great was received with worship in city after city as he swept through the ancient world. In many of his conquests, no one resisted at all. They simply came out to greet him, bow down to him, and pay homage to him not only as an emperor but as a god. What do these men have in common? They are all manifestations of the sea beast of Revelation 13:1.

The book of Revelation was somewhat more focused on life as it is on earth in chapters 1 through 11. But in chapters 12 through 22 it describes the spiritual realities behind the travail and the conquest on the face of the earth. In chapter 12, we saw that the dragon desires to destroy the Christ child, to destroy the church. He wages war against heaven and wherever he goes, he is defeated. We saw that by the time you count them all up, he is defeated a total of five times. Nonetheless, he is persistent. We read in chapter 12 that the dragon was enraged because, when he belched out a river of water to sweep away the woman, the earth helped the woman and swallowed that water up. When that was over, he went on to wage war against the rest of her offspring, which are those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus. Then we read that “the dragon stood on the shore of the sea and I saw a beast coming out of the sea.” The two beasts of Revelation are extremely similar. There are just a couple minor variations between the two so that we could say that the sea beast is the image of Satan. He is the first member of an unholy trinity.

The theory behind chapter 13 of Revelation is that Satan is a counterfeiter. It is one of his techniques to make nothing, to create nothing, to do nothing positive but rather to pervert that which is good. If you think about what Satan does and the way he works in the world, his work enticing people to sin has no positive thesis because sin never does. Sin only perverts what is good. Thus theft is a misuse of property. Lying is a misuse of the gift of language, as is slander, deceit and malice. Sexual immorality is a misuse of the gift of sexuality. Divorce is a misuse of marriage. Greed is a misuse of our good desires and the aspirations we have. Pride is a misuse of skill and giving too much credit to ourselves. Every sin you can think of is somehow a perversion of something that is good. That is true of the work Satan tries to do in us. It is also true of the work he does within his own demonic realm, such that Satan would like to consider himself to be a counterpart to God the Father. The Father plans and creates and Satan deceives and welcomes the beast.

The Father is related to the Son. Jesus is God incarnate. He is active in redemption and active in the lives of His people and in receiving worship from His people. In a similar way the sea beast who comes forth from Satan is Satan incarnate. His image is like the image of the beast even as Christ’s image is the very image of the Father. He is active not in redemption but in destruction and he too desires worship. Just as God sends the Son and the Son receives testimony by the Holy Spirit, so Satan has one who will give testimony to the first beast that he sends. It is a beast coming from the earth and sometimes called the false prophet. Just as the Holy Spirit witnesses to Christ, likewise a beast that comes from the earth,

which I call the earth beast, is a false witness who gives testimony and tries to get everyone on earth to worship the beast.

The triune God has a relationship, a love relationship, a wholly love relationship with the bride, His church. Satan also has a perverse kind of a love relationship with a harlot, not a bride, but a prostitute who is called Babylon. The bride is pure. The harlot is impure and tries to seduce through wealth and pleasure. This sea beast does correspond in twisted ways to Christ as you look through the pages of Scripture. I already mentioned that he receives worship as Christ has already received worship in Revelation 6 and will receive it later on. Both of them have a mark or a seal that they offer their people. Jesus put a mark on His people in chapter 7 and 9 to protect them. In both sets of relationships, there is a father-son pair, a proceeding relationship. Jesus had a mortal wound and was killed and raised to life. The beast has something that looked like a mortal wound, but he was raised to life. They also both have an interest in a name. The beast seeks a name. So there is an unholy trinity. The goal of this unholy trinity is to mock and to pervert the work of God and the work of Christ.

Let us take a look at the sea beast in Revelation 13:1-10. At the end of chapter 12 and beginning of 13, the dragon is standing by the sea when a beast comes with ten horns, seven heads, ten crowns on his horns and each had a blasphemous name even as Jesus has an excellent name. There is a description of this beast which I will not give in detail. The main idea, if you look at the beast and think about the imagery, is that this beast represents false oppressive government power, such as Stalin, Mao Tse-Tung, Hoxha, Alexander the Great, and the Roman emperors.

If you think through this symbolism, do you know these symbols in the Bible? What does a head represent? He has seven heads. The head in the Bible means authority or rule. What does a crown signify? It signifies power, governmental power. Horns are especially a sign of power in the Bible. So all three of these symbols are symbols of power, rule, and authority and they add up to government. According to this passage the goal is to attack the church indirectly through government and through false religion. The beast represents government as it oversteps its bounds, as it receives worship for 42 months. This is the pattern of false government throughout the world.

In verse 4, men worship the dragon because he had given authority to the beast. They also worshipped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast and who can wage war against him?" Do you remember the credo or title that Domitian liked? He liked to be called 'our Lord and our God.' And the Roman emperors liked to receive the honor or worship for their fame, by obedience to them and by the offering of a pinch of incense and a prayer not only for the emperor, but a prayer to the emperor. The spirit of the beast is therefore false government claiming worship for self. I already gave you my evidence that this happens in communism, which maybe did it the most. Yet it happens not only in communism, but in fact it is the common tendency of government to want more power than what it deserves in its sphere. It is also the common tendency of people to give that power to the government. Not only the communist countries but also socialist countries have done the same thing. "We will take care of you from the cradle to the grave." That is the motto of some of the socialist governments.

I have talked about Alexander the Great, the Roman emperors, about communists, about socialists, yet I can also mention the United States. It is one thing to be glad to be an American. It is a wonderful land that we should be loyal to our country and not attack it and not slander our leaders. We should pray for our leaders. But there is a danger in patriotism when people start identifying with their country, whether it is right or wrong. Our country is a great country, but it is also a sinful country. It is also a country that claims too much for itself. We claim loyalty sometimes at almost any cost. It does not just happen in

communist countries. Almost every government has a tendency to claim too much. In effect, they claim the right of worship, the right of exclusive loyalty.

The beast gives a sense of invincibility, and the whole world is astonished and follows the beast. He looks like a powerful animal and it says that he seemed to have a fatal wound. That is also another mark of many governments. The Bolshevik revolution was almost crushed repeatedly during the early twentieth century, and the communists in China could talk about the long march and how they had to march thousands of miles to avoid eradication. They seemed to be dead, but they came to life again. Napoleon had certain aspirations to greatness, and he also seemed to be defeated on more than one occasion. He seemed to be on the verge of death and that near death is a kind of mockery or an imitation of the true death and the true resurrection of Christ.

What does the sea beast do? He tries to intimidate by force. Revelation 13:10 says, "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." He tries to coerce, tries to use the sword to threaten with death. That is the mentality or the approach of the sea beast. The sea beast also likes to ask a question. In Revelation 13:4, men worship the dragon because he gave authority to the beast. They worship the beast and they asked, "Who is like the beast?" Where does the question, "who is like," come up in the Bible? "Who is like the Lord, and who is like our God?" Those refrains are found many times throughout the Old Testament. Exodus 15 says, "Who among the gods is like You, O Lord? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? O Lord, who is like you?" Psalm 89:8 says, "Who is like the Lord?" Isaiah also asks the question on a couple of occasions. But the beast says, "I want to have that same question, 'Who is like the beast?' There is no one like me."

How does the church respond to the beast? It is not by fighting, nor by meeting the sword with a sword, but by enduring. As Revelation 13:10 says, "If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with a sword, with a sword he will be killed." In other words, God will allow this. The way in which we fight the beast, Jesus has taught us, is not by using the beast's methods. Do you remember when Jesus was about to be arrested and Peter whipped out a sword? Jesus told Peter he did not have it right. Jesus said if He wanted to fight, He would not need Peter's sword. He could have 12 legions of angels, 72,000 angels, at His disposal to fight the little rag-tag bunch that came out to arrest Him. Now is the time to submit. It is the time to resist, not to resist actively, but to resist by not giving them the worship that they would like. We might say that by naming the fear of death, He weakens the fear of death. When we do not mention something, it has more of a hold. So we should just bring it right out in the open. Satan wants to kill. At least that is one of the things he wants to do. We will see another in a short time.

Killing does not really work. It does not actually work all that well. Often when active persecution takes place, such as slaying and captivity, things do not go well because the people's attention is drawn to the church. Their courage is admired and decent pagans feel bad about the killing of church members. So another technique is used in Revelation 13:11-18:

Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. 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. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. 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. 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. 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, 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. 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.

If the sea beast is political power, what is the earth beast? The earth beast is a religious power. Did you notice the references to worship and to images and to miraculous signs in the passage I just read? He resembles a lamb, but he speaks as a dragon. Does that remind you of anything? Is there any warning about people who come like lambs? False teachers come that way throughout Scripture and this is the way it is with Revelation, only the symbols are often altered a little bit. Jesus says in Matthew 7 to beware of those who come in sheep's clothing but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Likewise beware of a beast that speaks like or looks like a lamb, but is actually a dragon.

Revelation 13:12 says he is in front of, or before, or in the presence of the first beast. To be in front of or before in the Bible is language that indicates the posture of a worshipper. A prophet is one who is in the presence of God. When people worship, they are in the presence of the living God. So we could say this beast is a servant of the first beast. He performs signs such as fire coming from heaven. Who does that remind you of? It sounds like Elijah, who called fire down from heaven to destroy the prophets of Baal, which is in 1 Kings 17. Then in 2 Kings 1 and 2, when Elijah is going to be arrested by wicked kings of the north, fire comes down from heaven and devours one group of 50, and then another group, and then he is ready to devour another group. The second beast is going to imitate that. He is going to imitate the power that God has shown to take care of His prophet, Elijah. This beast deceives and leads to false worship, even as a false prophet will, according to Deuteronomy 18. False prophets lead you astray to worship other gods. He is a false prophet. He is the representative and the agent of the beast. He establishes false worship.

We had a fulfillment of the sea beast in the communists and in Alexander the Great and the Roman emperors. Where might we see a fulfillment of the earth beast, the false prophet? Throughout history there have been false religious powers that try to lead the people into false worship and tie it in with false government. We see it in the popes before the Reformation. Were those popes earth beasts? I think they were because those popes served the kings of the Holy Roman Empire. They served the kings and the military leaders of Italy and Spain and backed them up with the power of the pope, including threats of excommunication. It certainly was a false religion because of their profound corruption and because of their denials of salvation by faith through grace. When else does false religion support false governmental powers all in support of Satan? In Islam we have the imams and the mullahs who work hand in hand with the governmental powers and they even sometimes try to merge with the governmental power so the two are as one. The religion supports the state and the state supports religion. Can we think of other times this happened? Was there something right at hand for them in the first century? Certainly the system of the Roman emperors was one in which the priests would often support many religions and be initiated into several religions with big shows and ceremony. There would be meals and festivals and public events all using religion and prayer to support the power of the emperor. Now let us not just go after people of long ago and let us not just go after the popes. We can look to Protestants too. There are the state churches in Europe who take their money from the state and support a theology that is almost completely dead. They promote a safe, comforting religion. We have this in America too. Mormonism, with Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, sought to establish a state and a structure of their own. There is a tendency toward this in all kinds of false religions. It is really the exception when kings do not try to get priests or the church or religious institutions to support them and

prop them up and be in their control and pay them and consult with them and have them in their court. It was the exception in Israel to have independent prophets speaking against the kings in the ancient world. Another example would be Protestant churches today that uncritically support the American way. It is easy for religion to go into the hands of false government.

What happens here is that he also tries to get a mark on the right hand and on the forehead. There is also the number 666, which is a human number. I wish I had something really profound to tell you. I have looked at this, thought about it, and I have read all kinds of things about it, but the best that I can tell you is that seven is the number of God and His perfection, while six is the number of man in his imperfection. The number of mankind is an indicator of their godlessness and really of mankind's desire to be like God. It goes all the way back to Adam and Eve and their failure. I wish I had something more profound to say about the number.

I do have something more profound for the mark of the beast. In Revelation 9:6, believers are sealed so the locusts which come from the abyss cannot hurt them. The seal of a believer is one thing. The beast has neither a seal nor a sign, which is another thing that God uses sometimes. The beast has a mark. He does not get the same word as if to suggest he actually has the same thing. The servants of God are protected by God and they are marked. We see that in Exodus 12, Ezekiel 9, and Revelation 9. They are marked with a seal on their forehead to protect them. The beast also marks his servants to protect them. They are marked on their hand and on their forehead. But whereas God's servants are marked in a way that keeps them safe for Him for all eternity, the beast marks his out with something that makes it possible for them to buy and to sell. They do not and cannot be offered eternal life. Notice that it says in Revelation 16:17 they are marked on their hand and forehead so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark of the beast, which is the name of the beast and the number of his name.

Some people have wondered if we are going to have a literal physical mark of the beast. I think the short answer is there is no way of knowing. I do know that the mark of God, the seal of the Holy Spirit, is invisible. The mark of God is invisible, but I also know that at the time of the writing of this book, the books of Maccabees were popular. Maccabees tells a story of the life of the Israelites in the period between the close of the prophecy of Malachi, around 400 BC, and the coming of John the Baptist and the coming of Christ. The focus of the books is on the mid second century BC, around the years 160 to 130 BC. There is a crucial person during this time whose name is Antiochus. There was actually a series of Antiochus's who were part of a family, and they named cities after themselves like Antioch. But they were not happy to have one city; they wanted to have a bunch of Antioch's. Sometimes they gave themselves the title Epiphanies, which is an appearance or a manifestation of God. So when one called himself Antiochus Epiphanies, he was saying, "As you look upon me, Antiochus, you are having an epiphany. You are seeing what God is like." One of the things that Antiochus Epiphanies did was insist that the Jews worship his gods, and there is a little passage in 3 Maccabees 2 that describes this. It says that when he arrived in Egypt, he increased in his deeds of malice. He forbade circumcision in Israel and the reading of the law, and there was punishment if you did it. He proposed to inflict public disgrace upon the Jewish community. So he set up a stone on the tower in the courtyard with the inscription that none of those who do not sacrifice shall enter their sanctuaries and all Jews should be subject to a registration and to the status of slaves. In other words, you can worship your god if you worship my god too but if you do not, then you will be subject to various penalties. Now you will begin to see the connection to Revelation. Those who objected were to be taken by force and put to death. So if you protest, you die, said Antiochus. Those who are registered were also to be branded on their bodies by fire with the ivy leaf symbol of Dionysius and they would be reduced to their former limited status. But if any of them preferred to join those who had been initiated into the mystery religions, they would have equal citizenship with the Alexandrians. So Antiochus proposed three things with regard to worship.

Worship his gods and you can worship yours too. If you resist actively, you will be killed. If you resist passively, you will be branded, you will be marked with the ivy leaf of Dionysius, which was one of his gods. So if you said you would not do it, but you would not fight it either, then you were marked on your forehead for the rest of your life visibly with an image of Dionysius. Yet if you went along with the false religion, you would be back to the status of citizens like that of the Alexandrians. That was an actual literal mark, which I think had such a huge impact on the Jews of the time, that it may be part of the background for the mark of the beast.

Revelation says we are not just talking about Antiochus and something like false worship. It is actually a little bit more subtle than that. The subtle thing is that what you will get is the right to buy and to sell. If you get the seal of God and the seal of the Spirit, that will guarantee your salvation and an eternal inheritance. On the other hand, you can have the mark of the beast and he will promise you the ability to buy and sell temporal prosperity. You either get eternal or temporal prosperity. That is the choice. But if you choose temporal prosperity it is of course followed by eternal ruin. Those with the mark of the beast are sealed with his name and with his fate. Those with the mark of God are sealed with His name and with His fate. It is either eternal bliss and temporary suffering, or temporary bliss and eternal suffering. So take your pick between the seal of God or the mark of the beast.

Why is there interest in a mark or a seal? An answer is found in Revelation 14:1, which says, "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." So the seal is another equivalence. The seal of God is the name of God and it is written on our foreheads. What does it mean to have someone's name put on you or a name put in a certain place? It signifies ownership. This is a very well known symbol throughout the Old Testament. God puts His name on His place of worship in Deuteronomy 14:23, Deuteronomy 11:25, and Exodus 20:24. Jerusalem is the city of God and it too bears His name. Its name is the City of God. And the Israelites bear God's name and belong to Him, as Deuteronomy 28:9-10 says. They are His sons, His daughters, His objects. They have His name. It is not just in the Old Testament though. In baptism, we are baptized into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost. The minister puts on the water and then names the name of the triune God as he touches the child or adult and then he says, this person belongs to God. The book of Revelation says that those with the name of the Father on their forehead are those who are redeemed, those who are purchased by the blood of the Lamb. They are redeemed from the nations. They are purchased by Christ and they belong to Him. We are bought by Christ and we belong to Him. So if you bear a name you belong, and if you belong you get the privileges of being owned by God. Yet you also get the troubles and persecution. If you belong to the beast, you get the privileges of fitting in with the world. That is the privilege. No one bothers you. You buy and sell and you make deals and everything goes well. But on the other hand you also belong to him in his eternal destiny and his fate is yours.

Why is buying and selling emphasized? The logic is that Satan tries various approaches to tempt the Christians to lead them astray. One approach, from chapter 12, is to devour them, kill them, kill the Christ child, kill us. Another approach, also from chapter 12, is to accuse. Another approach is to start warfare in heaven and to win many angels to himself. None of those work in the long run. So then he tries another approach which is political power. But coercion by the state does not work all the time either so he tries economic temptation. I suppose that in America the greatest temptation for most of us is at this point, and maybe that is the case even throughout all history. One of the curious things you find when you look through church history is that sometimes frontal persecution does really hurt the church. There are countries like Albania, France, and various others in the history of the church in which true Christians were persecuted and killed and driven out. Not every Christian in Albania and France was killed. Many of them left and went to various other places. But generally such open persecution does not

work all that well. For instance, when Mao set himself the task of destroying the church in China, the most common estimate you hear among missiologists is that there were around 300,000 Christians in China. When Mao died, however, the estimate is that there were a minimum of 20 million Christians, and some people think there were 30 to 50 million after 40 years of solid persecution.

The Muslims in Northern Africa tried to kill Christians and eradicate them and use holy wars against Christians and it did not work. What did work was when they said that every Christian has to pay double taxes and no Christian can hold a high office in the government and Christians cannot be in the military and they cannot have nice churches or public processions. They could not do anything that makes your life grand, that makes it splendid, that gives you a sense of worth, or that gives you a little more money. In communist countries that also seemed to work the best. One of the things that the communists did in Russia, China, and East Germany was to forbid the children of Christians to go into the university no matter how smart, how talented, or how gifted they were. If you were a Christian, you were not going to get into the university. If you were a Christian, you were not going to be a professional. You were not going to get a good job. Christians will only be janitors, or dig ditches, or harvest fields by hand. They will be all the menial laborers. That tactic got some people. When they were told their children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren will all be common laborers, then some began to buckle. I do not know why it is, but this is the way in which Satan gets the greatest results.

How do we resist the beast? We resist the sea beast by entrusting ourselves to God, by saying, "I am not going to fight with the sword. If I have to I will die and God will care for me in heaven and I may be meeting the Lord faster than I had intended or hoped, but I will go to meet the Lord. What is the worst you can do? You can kill me. But then I go to be with the Lord." There is another approach, however, that the beast can use. He can make you suffer a little bit every year for 50 years. That is why we need discernment to resist the blandishments of wealth, and the worldly system of fitting in, of being just too comfortable in this world. There are Christians who play into the hands of the enemy here with the prosperity gospel. They say the Lord will give you abundance. They say if you are on the Lord's side, and if you give \$1000 to the Lord, He will give you \$2000 or \$5000 back. Just send some money to the ministry and you will have abundance. Of course it is true that God takes care of His people and that there are riches in Christ. But that mindset is a temptation to worldliness. Thinking that we will get the goods of this world and our religion too, is exactly what Satan wants. He wants to have a religion that makes you comfortable in this world. So resistance to Satan takes discernment. Resistance means loyalty, perseverance, and knowing that the Lord owns you. It means if you hear the threat of violence and hear the threat of deprivation, you have been prepared to face them.

Chapter 14 gives a counterpoint to this activity of Satan and his allies by describing a great multitude of 144,000. These are marked out as all the redeemed. I have been asked if the 144,000 in Revelation 7 are just the Jewish Christians, because it mentions the tribes. My answer is no, I think it is all Christians, because here the 144,000 are all who have been redeemed. They are pure and they follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They worship with power like thunder, yet sweetness like a harp. Their response to the power of the world is not to fight the world. It is not to wage war or to establish another society that will be a society free from materialism. Their response is to worship, to be holy. These people are pure. They are called virgins, not because virginity is something that is absolutely promised as the best quality, but because it symbolizes, from 1 Corinthians 7, devotion to the Lord and freedom from defilement.

Next comes Revelation 14:6-13, with three angels who bear messages. The first angel preaches an eternal Gospel. The eternal Gospel that he proclaims is, "Fear God and give Him glory because the hour of the judgment has come, worship Him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of the

water.” The first angel says worship God. There are two possibilities here about what this angel is proclaiming to all who are on the earth. One possibility is that this is the eternal Gospel, such that even before the fall and even after the redemption of all things we eternally worship God. That would be the eternal Gospel apart from the Gospel of Christ. Another view that is very plausible is that all people should worship God. All the angels who are not redeemed hear this Gospel: worship God. Thus it serves as a last call to repentance and it comes to those who live on the earth. Everybody on the earth hears the message one more time for all eternity. “Fear God, for the hour of judgment is coming. You earth dwellers, all of you who have the mark of the beast, all of you who are allied with him, this is your last chance. The hour of judgment has come. Repent now while you have a time to do so.” The phrase, ‘give Him glory’ is an idiom used in the Bible sometimes meaning to tell the truth about your sins.

The second angel comes proclaiming the doom of Babylon. Revelation 14:8 tells us, “Fallen is Babylon the great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.” Babylon is the age-old enemy of God’s people. Going back to the tower of Babel, what did the people say at the tower of Babel? They said, “Let us make a name for ourselves. Let us build a building up to heaven.” That is one of the marks of Babel, striving to reach heaven, to be independent. Think of the book of Habakkuk when Habakkuk asks, “What are you going to do about the sin in Israel?” And God’s answer is, “I am going to bring judgment from Babylon.” But Habakkuk says, “Babylon? They are worse than we are. They are a proud and impetuous people. They have an insatiable appetite. Their mouth is like a grave. They can never eat enough. There is no end to their desire.” In a perverse way, they have infinite desire like God. Isaiah 47 is another important passage about Babylon. In Isaiah 47:8, Babylon declares, “I am, and there is none beside me.” That is the motto of Babylon, yet also the motto of God. So the prophet Isaiah says that Babylon will suffer loss like a widow. In the ancient world, a woman’s only security was in her children and her husband. But Babylon says, “I will never be a widow, I’ll always have a husband to take care of me and I will never lose my children to take care of me.” But Isaiah responds in Isaiah 47:9-11,

Both of these will overtake you in a moment, on a single day: loss of children and widowhood. They will come upon you in full measure, in spite of your many sorceries and all your potent spells. You have trusted in your wickedness and have said, ‘No one sees me.’ Your wisdom and knowledge mislead you when you say to yourself, ‘I am, and there is none besides me.’ Disaster will come upon you, and you will not know how to conjure it away. A calamity will fall upon you that you cannot ward off with a ransom; a catastrophe you cannot foresee will suddenly come upon you.

The third angel brings the word of judgment. The messenger of judgment is coming upon those who worship the beast and receive his mark on the forehead and on the hand. Revelation 14:10 says that they “will drink of the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of His wrath.” Some translation say “double strength,” meaning it will be a full measure. They will get absolutely every bit of the wrath that they deserve, because the day of judgment has come. Then Revelation 14:14-20 describes a scene from which we might even get the term ‘blood bath’ because the judgment then does indeed come. A sickle is swept over the earth, and the blood of those who are judged on this day is trampled and it flows out of the press rising as high as a horse’s bridle for a distance of 1600 stadia, which is about 180 miles. That is the wrath of God. It takes us one more time to the judgment day because we have see Satan. Because the earth beast and the sea beast are unwilling to repent, we find the coming of the judgment day.