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February 2013Webinar Series #300:14

Today's Study: "Prophecies 10 & 11 - Part II"

Hello! I'm Larry Wilson.

This is Webinar #14 discussing my book, "Jesus' Final Victory."

Today's presentation concerns "Prophecies 10 & 11" This is part II, the conclusion.

To make the best use of our time, I assume that you have already read Prophecies 10~&~11 in my book, Jesus' Final Victory.

Incidentally, if you don't have a copy, you can download a free copy at www.wake-up.org (click on the red button titled Topical Studies).

My motto for this webinar series is simple:

"The more you know about apocalyptic prophecy, the more you will benefit from it."

Last month, I took some time to demonstrate how and why Prophecy 10 is separated from Prophecy 11.

We saw that when the chronological order of events is broken, a new prophecy begins.

Our investigation also highlighted the difference between events and descriptors.

An event is an action of some kind and a descriptor is a phrase that amplifies or explains certain things about an event.

The second thing we examined last month was Lucifer's use of agents.

We talked about Lucifer's use of Herod.

Working through a demon possessed Herod, the devil attempted to kill baby Jesus.

Why did the devil attempt to kill Jesus at the time of His birth?

Answer: Christ and Lucifer have a history of conflict that predates the creation of Earth. The devil had a long standing hatred for Jesus and he tried to kill Him at birth because the devil knew that Jesus had come to Earth to redeem sinners.

The devil reasoned that if he could kill Jesus as an infant, there would be no redemption for human beings.

When the devil was cast out Heaven, his powers were limited. For example, the devil was not permitted to kill baby Jesus himself.

Lucifer had to use a human agent and he found an agent in Herod.

Lucifer also found agents to put Jesus to death on the cross: Jewish leaders and Roman authorities.

Last month, we also talked about Lucifer's use of the Roman Catholic Church for 1,260 years.

The devil is not permitted to destroy God's people himself, he has to use human agents and what better agent could there be than one who claims to speak for God, but was actually opposed to God and His truth!

A very important point:

When Roman soldiers put Jesus to death, they were merely doing their job. Those men did not know, in reality, what they were doing!

Jesus affirmed this saying:

Luke 23:34 "Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' And they divided up his clothes by casting lots."

When the Pharisees and Sadducees condemned Christ to death, they did not understand what they were actually doing!

Jewish leaders did not know that Jesus was God in the flesh. They thought Jesus was nothing more than a blasphemer from Nazareth.

John 8:14 "Jesus answered, 'Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going.' . . .

John 8:19 Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also."Let's take this a step further:

Herod did not know that he was carrying out Lucifer's desire when he commanded that all baby boys in Bethlehem be put to death.

Herod acted in a way that was similar to Pharaoh. Herod was afraid of losing control of his territory. Herod was protecting his throne from an unsettling rumor that a Messiah had been born, a Messiah who would someday come from Bethlehem and rule over the nations with an iron scepter... (Psalm 2:9) The Roman Catholic Church did not know that it was carrying out Lucifer's desire when it persecuted God's saints for 1,260 years.

The Roman Catholic Church did what any earthly authority or government will do. Those in power will attempt to neutralize or destroy any threat to their authority and control over the people.

What is taking place in Syria today?

What is taking place in Egypt today?

Aren't those in power doing whatever it takes to stay in power?

Why is it important for us to understand that Lucifer's agents do not know that they are Lucifer's agents?

Last month, I talked about Lucifer's plans for the composite beast in Revelation

A time is coming when the devil will gain control of a global government. This government is called Babylon in the book of Revelation and through it, the devil will persecute God's people -- but the leaders of Babylon and those who carry out Babylon's laws will not know (at first) that they are carrying out the devil's desire!

On the contrary, the persecutors will think they are doing what has to be done, doing their best given the circumstances at hand.

Do you remember from last month's study that I asked a question about a glove and a hand? The question was this:

If a person puts a glove on his hand and he hits you, was it the glove or the person wearing the glove that hit you?

I know the question seems silly, but it highlights an important truth:

Through the ages, God has required Lucifer and his demons to use human agencies for persecuting His saints.

In other words, Lucifer (the hand) has had to gain control of evil people (the glove) in order to hurt God's people.

Lucifer and his angels are not permitted to hurt people directly. They have to work through human agents.

Why is it important know that Lucifer is required to use humans to impose persecution on God's people?

Lucifer would have destroyed the woman in the wilderness if he himself had been free to kill God's people.

Going forward, Lucifer would destroy all of God's people during the Great Tribulation if he himself was permitted to kill.

Lucifer's limitation explains why Lucifer gives Babylon its throne, power and authority.

The devil is determined to destroy the remnant of the woman and he knows that during Phase I of Babylon, he has to accomplish this through a government called Babylon.

Let's review the process:

Rev 12:17 [After the 1,260 years ended] Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off [disappeared] to make war against the rest [remnant or last] of her offspring -- those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus -- and the dragon stood on the shore of the sea."

What is the dragon waiting on?

. . . And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. . . The beast I saw resembled a leopard (swift), but had feet like those of a bear (cruel) and a mouth like that of a lion (crushing). The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. . . . He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation." (Rev 13:1, 2, 7)

John does not give an explanation for the rise of the composite beast in Rev 13:1. He doesn't need to because apocalyptic prophecy is chronological in nature.

Each apocalyptic prophecy in Daniel and Revelation aligns with the other 16 apocalyptic prophecies and when properly put together this matrix tells us things that cannot be otherwise known!

We know the beast in Revelation 13:1 will arise from the sea of humanity (Earth's population) as a response to God's wrath -- the global devastation created by the

first four trumpets.

Since 1798, we have been living in a "cease fire" -- a period of time that falls between the fall of the little horn in Daniel 7 and the rise of Babylon in Revelation 13:1.

Persecution Cease fire Persecution
----y----1798 2014?

Today, we enjoy religious freedom, the Sun is shining and the birds are singing... but don't be naive.

Bible prophecy is like a weather satellite, and it tells us that a deadly war is off shore and it moving toward God's people and the great irony is that most Christians will not believe it!

T or F: The Christian world is full of delusional thinking.

Yes, at the end of 1,260 years, the devil was forced to retreat. But the devil and his demons have not been in Florida on vacation. They have been busy, preparing to destroy God's saints in a final war against them.

And what preparations have they made?

They have been preparing people to serve as their agents so that they might ignorantly and unjustly persecute God's people when the time and opportunity arrives.

Thought question:

Are you ready and willing to be treated unjustly for the cause of Christ?

Are you ready to have your family, property and possessions taken away from you, are you ready to be maligned and misunderstood by ignorant people who have no spiritual understanding or values?

Paul profiles the people who will persecute God's saints:

- 2 Tim 3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.
- 2 Tim 3:2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,
- 2 Tim 3:3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,
- 2  $\operatorname{Tim}$  3:4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of  $\operatorname{God}$ --
- 2 Tim 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.

Now that we have profiled the present generation, we can see what the devil has been doing. He has prepared a whole generation of greedy, immoral, abusive and ignorant people to pounce on those who love truth and righteousness.

All that is needed to make this happen is a global crisis so great that survivability becomes questionable.

When ignorant people unite for the purpose of appeasing God's wrath, persecution

of the saints will begin.

This coming assault on the saints will last 42 miserable months. There will be no justice for God's people.

How well can you tolerate injustice and abuse for Christ's sake?

And yes, most (maybe 2/3's) of God's people will perish as martyrs during the Great Tribulation. (Fifth seal) Lucifer will hit the saints very hard during the Great Tribulation and his glove will be the composite beast, Babylon (agent).

The devil and his army of demons are ready.

#### And....

The four angels holding back the wrath of God are ready.

Both teams are waiting on a command from Jesus.

Today, Jesus is also waiting for the appointed time to arrive, for with God, timing is everything!

Now that we have discussed Lucifer's game plan for the Great Tribulation, I have a complicated question for your consideration, but first, I need to set up the parameters of the question so that you can give the question due consideration:

When the time came in Heaven to begin the judgment of the dead, God called all of the angels together so that they might observe His actions and decisions.

During the judgment of the dead, Jesus uses the books of record and the testimony of the Holy Spirit to determine who shall be saved and who shall be lost. (Two Witnesses)

Each dead person is sentenced to eternal life or eternal death after Jesus thoroughly reviews the dead person's record.

During the judgment process, Jesus considers what each dead person knew to be right and wrong, Jesus also reviews the actions of that dead person and finally, Jesus hears from the Holy Spirit about the dead person's willingness or unwillingness to respond to His demands.

All of these factors are openly considered before the angels when a dead person is sentenced to eternal death or granted eternal life.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{OK}},$  now that I have summarized how dead people are judged, I have one more statement.

The Father already knows the choices that each living person will make during the Great Tribulation.

The Father wrote this down long before it came to pass.

Rev 13:8 "All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world."

Why is this language used? Why is God's foreknowledge even inserted here?

Why does the Bible declare that before the Great Tribulation begins, the Father already knows what everyone is going to do?

Before you answer  $\dots$  We know that the dead are judged according to the record

of their life, and we know that the Father already knows who will worship the composite beast.... so here's the question:

Why does God go about the judgment of the living as He does?

- -- We know that God is going to devastate the whole world with the first four trumpets,
- -- We know that God is going to empower 144,000 servants to proclaim the eternal gospel,
- -- We know that God will permit the devil to take control of Babylon,
- -- We know that  $\operatorname{God}$  will permit the devil and his angels to physically appear and
- -- We know that God will allow the saints to be persecuted by Babylon for  $42\,\mathrm{months}$ .

Do you think that God could judge the living in a "less violent" and painful way and still achieve the same result?

Because we know that God is deliberate and purposeful in everything He does, we have to ask what does God want to accomplish and/or prove by conducting the judgment of the living as outlined in Revelation's story?

Four possible answers:

- 1. God wants to demonstrate to the angels that honest hearted people in every culture and religion will ignore their social setting (family, friends, colleagues, etc.) and live by faith when living by faith is required.
- 2. God wants to demonstrate to the angels that people who have hearts of love, regardless of culture or religion, will do right when they know what is right. Because of love, they will make whatever sacrifice is required.
- 3. God wants to demonstrate to the angels that there are people in all cultures and religions who love truth and they will embrace greater truth -- specifically His Sabbath -- once religious traditions and paradigms are eliminated.
- 4. God wants to prove to the angels that there are people in every culture and religion who listen to the Holy Spirit and they will do what the Spirit commands -- regardless of the punishment that will come from religious leaders and governments.

Why does God want to show these four things to the angels?

God wants to demonstrate to the angels that His judgment of the dead is no different in substance than His judgment of the living.

In other words, those declared righteous during the judgment of the dead would do the same things as those receiving the seal of God during the Great Tribulation if they had been alive.

Why does God want the angels to see this?

God wants the angels to know that He will soon change the order of the universe.

He will bring to Heaven a host of ex-sinners who will serve as priests and kings. These pitiful human beings will be glorified and exalted above the angels!

Rev 1:5,6 " . . . To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father --

to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen."

Rev 5:9,10 "And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the Earth."

Bottom line: Throughout eternity, ex-sinners will serve God as priests and kings.

What does a priest do?

He is a mediator or representative between God and His subjects:

Heb 5:1 "Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins."Near the end of the world, God will put the living through a very difficult test so that the angels can see the worthiness of His future priests.

## Babylon Phase I

Not drawn to scale:

An invisible Lucifer for the first 890 days...

Day 1 through 890 (fifth trumpet): (two-thirds of the Great Tribulation)

Most Christians believe there is a devil, but few have carefully studied his clever and determined efforts.

For many people, the devil is a mythical "bogey man," but nothing could be further from the truth.

At one time, Lucifer was the highest and brightest of God's angels.

Lucifer was given awe some powers and abilities that would boggle our minds if we knew all of them.

When Lucifer was cast out of Heaven, God did not remove Lucifer's powers. Instead, He limited them or Lucifer would have trashed the whole universe!

Christians need to quickly wake up and come to grips with the reality of Lucifer and his demons.

We have to understand something that cannot be seen with the naked eye:

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

Eph 6:13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil

comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

"How will Lucifer's actions be detected during the Great Tribulation? Lucifer will use the religious and political leaders of the world to unwittingly carry out his warfare against "the remnant of the woman."

Think about this:

Lucifer's best attack against God's people occurs when ignorant people hurt God's people -- not realizing or understanding that they are carrying out evil objectives which Lucifer wants carried out.

Remember Saul's persecution of Christians?

Lucifer is a demon, a predator with no heart or concern for the welfare of anything other than himself. He is filled with rage and he will do whatever he can to destroy Godis purposes and God's people.

## Jesus said:

John 14:29  $\,$  I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

# Babylon Phase II

A visible Lucifer and his demons...  $891^{\rm st}$  day to the  $1335^{\rm th}$  day (last third of Great Tribulation)

## Babylon Phase II

Not drawn to scale:

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---Dan 7->|----- Courtroom Seated -----|
---Dan 8 -2300---->|--- Dead --|- Living-|
     1798 1800 1844 1994
                                             Millennium
Seals ---1-2---3----|----4-----5------6------7
                         1234 5 6 7
Trumpets
2 Witnesses
                         |---1260 -----|
                                   1234567
Bowls
                           |---42 months--|
Saints Persecuted
                                                1000 years
Devil Masquerading as God
                             |----|
       ----- Time ----| 1335 Days ---|----->
```

After the first four trumpets are described in Revelation 8, we read these words:

Rev 8:13 As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"

Woe! Woe! Woe!

Bad, bad, bad

Cursed, cursed, cursed

What does this verse mean?

It means the next three trumpets are three curses that will befall wicked people.

This is in contrast to the first four trumpets that will befall notably wicked places.

Trumpet 5: Non-religious people

Trumpet 6: Religious people

Trumpet 7: Everyone receiving the mark of the beast

When Lucifer and his angels physically appear, the devil will masquerade as Almighty God.

Claiming to be God, he will travel the world for five months, winning the confidence of billions by appearing to be holy, righteous, generous, forgiving and gracious.

His appearance and actions will deceive a large portion of the world. Pretending to be Almighty God, the devil will perform amazing miracles. He will even call fire down out of Heaven to prove his assumed divinity.

He will quickly grow in popularity, admiration, adoration, worship and millions of wicked people will bow down before him in humble obedience.

(Note: The people bowing before Lucifer will not be saints or infidels. Those worshiping the devil will be religious people who defied the gospel of Jesus presented by the 144,000.)

At the present time, there is a large number of non-religious people on Earth (atheists, agnostics, nations like China and Russia, communists, infidels, etc.).

These people do not believe there is a God and they will continue to deny there is a God even when Lucifer is walking on the Earth!

During the five months allotted to the fifth trumpet, Lucifer will capture the hearts and minds of religious people who rejected the gospel of Jesus. Behind the scenes, Lucifer's demons will also be at work.

Their job will be that of eliminating infidels.

Lucifer's demons will seek them out and torture them with indescribable pain.

Thus, during the fifth trumpet, a large group of non-religious and non-believing people will capitulate and join ranks with those who believe that Lucifer is Almighty God.

There will be one antidote for this demonic torture. If a person surrenders to the gospel of Jesus, Jesus will not permit the devil's demons to torture him any further.

(Remember the story of the serpents and the bronze snake in Numbers 21?)

The net effect of the fifth trumpet is that demonic torture will eliminate a large number of infidels. Most of them will join forces with Lucifer, but a few will surrender to the gospel of Jesus Christ and be saved!

Notice Paul's comment about the appearing of the devil.

In 2 Thessalonians 2, Paul describes Lucifer as the "lawless one" (or KJV, "man of sin") because Lucifer will not be subject to any of man's laws (thus the lawless one). He will do as he pleases and given his incredible miracle working powers, no one will be able to obstruct or thwart his actions:

"The coming of the lawless one [will appear to be a divine event, but the devil's actions] will be in accordance with the work of Satan [who he really is]

displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.

They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness." (2 Thessalonians 9:9-12, insertion and emphasis mine)

Two things to consider:

First, Paul says the wicked "refused to love the truth and so be saved." His language indicates something that many people overlook: The appearing of the lawless one occurs for a specific reason. Before Lucifer can appear, the world will hear the gospel and reject it. How do we know the world heard the gospel and rebelled against it? Answer: God does not assign guilt to a person for something that he does not know and has not heard. (See James 4:17.)

Second, because the wicked refused to accept the truth and be saved, God sends a "game changer," a powerful delusion so that both groups of wicked people (religious and non-religious) will believe the lie and be condemned.

What does this mean?

Because people have the power of choice God says to the final generation, "Choose the gospel of Jesus and be saved or go with the miracles of a demon and be condemned. It's your choice, but you have to choose one or the other."

Long ago God predetermined that the living shall be thoroughly tested during the Great Tribulation to see who will choose to live by faith and be saved. Because every person has the power of choice, each person will be required to make a choice.

Our response to the testimony of Jesus -- spoken through the lips of the 144,000 -- will determine our eternal destiny.

After approximately two and a half years of dealing with hardship and survival, many non-religious and non-believing wicked people will shrug off and ignore the testimony of the 144,000.

When the gospel stalls, the devil will be released from the spirit realm. His brilliant presence and counterfeit miracles will be seen and felt all over the world.

This will change everything!

Masquerading as Almighty God, the devil will solicit adoration and worship through counterfeit miracles and signs and billions of wicked people will receive the devil as their Savior and God.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the devil's demons will seek out the infidels and non-believers and torture them into submission.

When the infidels are suffering for their refusal to worship the devil, some infidels and non-believers will realize their need of the Savior. They will repent of their rebellion and be saved. The end result is that Jesus will be able to save to the utmost.

#### Sixth Trumpet

When the five months allotted to the fifth trumpet ends, the devil will suddenly change behavior and character. His charade and deceit will end.

His change of character will be prompted and empowered by the fact that during the sixth trumpet, the devil will be permitted to kill people through his agents. (The hand in the glove all over again.)

In fact, the Bible indicates the devil's forces will kill a third of mankind. (Revelation 9:15) Who will be killed? Answer: Lucifer's opposition.

Who will be opposed to Lucifer at the sixth trumpet? Actually, there will still be three groups of people.

First, there will be a large number of saints.

Second, there will be a large number of infidels and finally, there will be a host of religious people who refuse to accept that Lucifer is Almighty God!

What will be their objection?

The saints will defy Lucifer's authority and blasphemous claims. They will know that Lucifer is the devil. The infidels will defy Lucifer's move to abolish the governments of the world and a large number of religious people will be opposed to Lucifer's move to abolish all of the religions of the world.

Lucifer will give orders to abolish the religions and governments of the world during the sixth trumpet. Why?

Here are two reasons:

First, when "God Himself" lives among men, there is no room for religious plurality, there is no reason for people to have different views about God.

Second, because Lucifer intends to rule over mankind as Almighty God, he will be opposed to all religions. (2 Thessalonians 2:4) Lucifer will demand that everyone worship and obey his laws or die.

The image to the beast mentioned in Revelation 13:14 will be Lucifer's crowning achievement. The devil will set up a one-world-church-state during the sixth trumpet.

This will permit the devil to rule over the world as "King of Kings (political matters) and Lord of Lords" (spiritual matters). There will be one Lord, one faith and one baptism.

Anyone resisting membership in Lucifer's one-world-church-state will be considered part of the opposition and will be a target for destruction. (Revelation 13:15)

A one-world-government cannot exist when governments, constitutions and national boundaries exist.

Therefore, Lucifer will eliminate the governments of the world by dividing the world into ten sectors. He will appoint ten puppet kings over these ten sectors. These ten kings will be Lucifer's task masters.

The devil will divide the world into small groups of a thousand people and he will place captains over each group that are loyal to him.

(Note: Dividing people into groups of a thousand was a common practice in ancient

times. It is an efficient way to logistically manage a large number of people. It also keeps any one group from becoming very powerful. See Exodus 18:21,25; Numbers 31:14; 1 Samuel 22:7 and 1 Samuel 29:2.)

Why does God permit the devil to abolish the religions and nations of the world?

Do you remember that one of God's objectives for the Great Tribulation is the salvation of the largest possible number of people?

During the fifth trumpet, Jesus will permit the devil to torture the infidels so that as many as possible in this group of people will realize their need of a Savior.

During the sixth trumpet, Jesus will permit the devil to abolish all of the religions and governments of the world so that there can be no impediment to accepting the gospel of Christ.

Consider this: One of the greatest impediments to a new gospel is an old gospel, or as some people call it, "old time religion."

Many good hearted people would rather cling to their "old time religion" than embrace God's new gospel, the gospel presented by the 144,000. When "old time religions" are abolished and outlawed, a huge obstacle for accepting God's truth will be removed.

People will find themselves having to choose between God's truth or the devil's lies.

Past traditions and the practice of "old time religion" will not be possible!

The devil will have total control over the people of the world.

They will be easily managed in groups of a thousand. When he has achieved this, the devil will offer the necessities of life to everyone swearing loyalty to him and his government. Those refusing to go along will be easily identified and killed.

Thus, one-third of each group will be killed and the remaining 666 people in each group will wear a tattoo on their right hand showing they were permitted to live.

The tattoo will be show they are the property of the devil.

The good news is that during this final hour of salvation, a few people will let go of their "old time religion." They will wake up and realize their desperate need of a Savior a God whose ways are righteous and whose eternal government is based on principles of love.

When these last few sheep come out of Babylon, God's offer of mercy will end. The seven bowls will then fall and Jesus will appear.

Next time: Prophecies 12 & 13