

# Bible Study #27

4/12/22

# Administrative Information

- The Bible Study Class will be presented in the Parish Hall every Tuesday morning from **9:30 A.M. until 10:30 A.M.** beginning **September 14, 2021** and ending **May 17, 2022** except for the **following Tuesdays** related to a holiday:
  - Nov 23, 2021 – Thanksgiving Week
  - Dec 21, 2021 – Christmas Week
  - Dec 28, 2021 - New Year's Week
  - **Apr 19, 2022 – Easter Week**
- The same class will be given in the Parish Hall every Tuesday evening from **7:30 P.M. until 8:30 P.M.**
- Both Tuesday classes will be available live and via Zoom using the same sign in as use last fall and this spring (It will be posted on the Parish website later in the week)
- Inclement weather decisions will be **based on announcements posted on the Parish Website**
- Contact info: email: [biblestudy@straymonds.org](mailto:biblestudy@straymonds.org) ; Tel: (703) 644-5873

# Revelation 13 (Cont)

- **Revelation 13:13-17** *“It works great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth...the name of the beast or the number of its name*
  - This meant that the inhabitants of Asia Minor who refused to worship the Roman Empire were in serious trouble because these religious leaders had the might of the Roman sword behind them

# Revelation 13 (Cont)

- **Revelation 13:18** *“This calls for wisdom: its number is six hundred and sixty-six”*
  - Father said that there is nothing wrong with the number 6!
    - God created the world in 6 days
    - A Seraphim had 6 wings
    - The early church said that 6 was the number for Jesus Christ because He was the perfection of creation
  - Many say 6 is bad because it is one less than 7 (the perfect number)
  - But, an A- or B+ is not considered a bad grade

# Revelation 13 (Cont)

- In fact, this same number (**666**) appears elsewhere in the Bible (John was assuming that his audience knew the Bible)
- Look at **1<sup>st</sup> Kings 10:14-28** \* where Solomon:
  - Collected 666 talents of gold in taxes
  - Had so much gold that silver was worthless
  - Gathered 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen and imported horses from Egypt
  - Was the richest and wisest man in the world

# Revelation 13 (Cont)

- John is assuming that we know **Deuteronomy 17:14-20** \*(the only edicts governing a Jewish king) where it forbids him from multiplying:
  - Horses
  - Wives
  - Silver and Gold
- Solomon married thousands of foreign women who turned his heart away from the God of Israel
- He built temples and totems on the Mount of Olives for them making polytheism the religion of the land
- This is what was happening in the churches of Asia Minor

# Revelation 13 (Cont)

- Further, **Exodus 13:15-16** \* says that redeeming the first-born sons shall be as a mark on your hand or frontlets between your eyes
- Israel was to follow the law of Moses, and here the early Christians were being called to follow the Law or Rome
- Thus, any one in Asia Minor who obeyed the Roman Law had the mark of Rome on their forehead and hand
- This Roman law said that no one could buy or sell in the market place unless he had the Roman mark
- Placing an official at the entrances of the market places made it easy to enforce this law

# Revelation 13 (Cont)

- We can see the same situation under Greek rule at the time of **1<sup>st</sup> Maccabees**
- All of this meant that 666 was to remind the people in the Churches of Asia Minor of what was expected of them if they were to keep God's Law
- After all, the 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment remained that He was their God and they were to have no gods before Him
- Once again, we are facing a chapter break that should not be at this point in the text
- **The story continued with a brief passage in Revelation 14 and 16**



# Revelation 14

# Revelation 14

- **Revelation 14:1** *“Then I looked, and low, when Mount Zion stood the lamb, and with him 144,000 who had its name and his father’s name written on their fore heads”*
  - Father asked that we look at the contrast between those who had the mark of God on their forehead and those who had the mark of the Roman Empire
  - These are members of two different kingdoms and there is a battle going on between them
  - The 144,000 were those who refused to worship the pagan gods **\*(Ezekiel 9:3-6 \*)**

# Revelation 14

- **Revelation 14:9-12** *“And another angel,...Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus”*
  - To fulfill the Roman law one had to have the mark on their forehead or hand
  - The **call for endurance** was a call to hold on until the end (which should remind us of **Daniel 7**)
  - The opposite of “keeping the commandments of God” is to worship idols
  - The commandments that must be kept were to love the Lord your God with your whole heart and your whole mind, and you shall have no other gods before me

# Revelation 14 (Cont)

- This is all about **monotheism** vs **polytheism** which was the constant problem for 1<sup>st</sup> century Gentile Christians who were tempted to eat food offered to idols and visit temple prostitutes
- Father pointed out that understanding the Book of Revelation for most modern Christians is difficult because they do not know this Roman history