

THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST 7: THE FOUR HORSEMEN

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We are, of course, still on the same message. I was talking with Brother Chandler yesterday evening and he was saying: that's a subject that just continues and continues. He said: you could be *months* preaching on it, and maybe you'll still be on it when you come down to Australia. Well, I'm trying to come to a conclusion but I don't want cut it short either.

If we could go back to Matthew 16. This is where we ended-up last time. I'm just going to read a portion of it. I'll probably just read verse 18.

Here Jesus is speaking to Peter. He says:

Matthew 16:18
And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter,

And yes, that does mean *a rock*. In other words, we can say: Peter had a very *solid* and *stable* personality.

Matthew 16:18
and upon this rock

Now, when he says that, Jesus is no longer talking about Peter. What we have to understand is that *this rock* is the *revelation of who Jesus Christ is*.

So the thing is: he wasn't going to, we can say, *entrust* this revelation – which is in itself *a rock* – to somebody whose spirit was not *firm*.

But just as Peter had a certain *solidness* to his person, God chose to reveal that revelation – which is also *solid* – to this person who had, we can say: *a solid spirit*, praise the Lord, because *this church* was going to be an *unshakable church*. Praise the Lord.

Just imagine: it would make no sense for this revelation to be *a solid revelation* if the main man to whom it was revealed had fluctuated or if he had been double-minded. I have to say: that would not be a strong way to begin to build the church.

So he says here:

Matthew 16:18

and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.



That's what we were speaking on last time: *the gates of hell* were going to *come against the church*.

From the day of Pentecost and even *before* that – while Jesus was still on earth – here came Judas Iscariot *who, for thirty pieces of silver, sold the Lord Jesus* into, we can say: a place where he would be crucified. [Matthew 26:15]

Then, of course, we get to *the day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost fell*. [Acts 2:1-4]
That should've been – I have to say: for the church *it was* – the most beautiful day!

Nonetheless, the devil was there *to criticize, to mock*, and to say: *oh, they're just drunk*.
[Acts 2:13]

And they still do the same today. In English we have the term: *holy rollers*. In Spanish they say: *those hallelujahs*. Neither one of those terms is actually – we can say – a positive phrase, but it's *to make fun*.

So that's one way the enemy comes against the church.

But after the church was – we can say – *established*, and even into the First Church Age, we know there was a wonderful revival. It says in Acts 19 that *the Word of God multiplied greatly* [Acts 19:20] and that was *throughout the Gentile world*.

Of course, it was by *Paul's ministry* that the Gospel was no longer constrained only to the Jews but the gates were then opened. And since then, the gospel has been going *throughout the world*. [Acts 13:47]

I have to say: with a man like Paul and the men who accompanied him, the church was very well *established*. The devil could not really come in right away and begin to upset things.

But eventually he found a way that he *could* come in and that was really – we can say – to begin to use the affections of the carnality of certain men.

It's not something that he could convince people to go back out into the world but he began to use certain ones to give a slight – we can say – *to contaminate* the truth of the Word of God, to get them just a little bit *off-track*, to *deceive* them.

We read about the Galatians, how certain ones had come in and said: *you have to be circumcised*. [Galatians 2:3-4] That was *not* the message Paul preached.

When he found out how that was going, he said: *who has bewitched you?* [Galatians 3:1]
It was a pretty serious term Paul used there. He said: *I would that this individual were even cut off*. [Galatians 5:12]

Again, if we were to talk like that today: *I wish that this minister were cut off*, they would say: oh Brother, you're not showing love, you have the wrong spirit. They'd say: we just have to figure out how to get along first and God will work all this stuff out.

Well, I have to say: there is such a thing as *standing for truth*. Praise the Lord.

Paul said that the Lord Jesus is going to return for *a glorious church, without spot*. [Ephesians 5:27]

So we have to stand for *what is right*.

And when something comes along that's *an error*, we have to *identify it* and say: that is wrong *by the Word*. It's not by me or by any other minister but the Holy Ghost can show the truth of the Word of God. And the Lord *uses men* to express that to the people. Praise the Lord.

They were others who came along saying that *the resurrection had already passed*. [2Timothy 2:18]

Well, there was a certain – we can say – *truth to that* in the sense that the *first phase* of the first resurrection had already passed. Amen. But the resurrection itself had not passed.

Again I have to say: Paul did *not* pat those people on the back. He *didn't* say: just stay around. The important thing is that we can fellowship together and we'll wait on the Lord. I won't say too much that the resurrection is still going to happen and you also don't say too much that it's passed. The main thing is: we don't want division. So we'll just keep going along and the Lord will work it out in time.

I have to say: nothing gets worked out that way! All you do is open the door for more confusion to come in.

The reality is – we've said it many times – when we stand for truth, it's *not* that we don't love the ones who are in error. In fact, that's really where true love is shown because when we stand for what's right, this causes others to have to make a choice: where am I standing? What's right and what's wrong?

Whereas, when you just open your doors and open your arms, then there is *no standard*. There is no need to be concerned: am I looking at things correctly according to the Word of God, or not?

But Paul got both of those issues in line. He dealt with them swiftly and firmly.

Paul was martyred sometime around 67 AD and the church continued – I have to say – *it continued well* throughout the 70s and the 80s. I'm not talking about the 1970s and 1980s [laugh] I'm talking about the literal 70s AD, 80s AD, up to 90 AD.

Then somewhere between – let's say – 90 and 96 AD when most of the apostles had already been martyred, again the enemy saw a chance to come in and *some began to preach: Jesus Christ has not come in the flesh.* [2John 1:7]

So here came that spirit of antichrist again, and now the enemy was attacking *the foundation*, the *very rock* that we just read about regarding *the revelation of who Jesus Christ is.* [Matthew 16:16]

John had to deal with that. He said: *the spirit of antichrist has already come.* [1John 4:3]

He said: *there are many antichrists* that have gone out into the world. [1John 2:18] When he said that, again, he wasn't talking about the drunkards and all of that but he was speaking of men who *claimed* to still be part of this same gospel.

He mentioned one of them *by name.* He said: *he loves to have pre-eminence among the brethren.* [3John 1:9] What was that? He was after *popularity.* He loved to hear: oh he's a good brother. He's really spiritual, he knows a lot. I love the way he preaches, it just makes me feel so happy. This man loved to hear that. That was really his goal: to be popular among the brethren.

The same John said: *there's nothing that gives me greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth.* [3John 1:4]

John also mentioned another, I believe it was *Demetrius* – I hope I don't have them mixed up – he said: *he has a good report of the brethren and of the truth itself.* [3John 1:12] Praise the Lord.

Today if we mention a name, people say: oh brother, you have the wrong attitude. Especially if we say a name when we're bringing out *error.*

But that absolutely happened and it was *necessary.* We see it in the book of Acts.

And I remember when Brother Jackson was here, he dealt with two ministers. I have to say: the way they began to conduct their ministry – these were different cases – it became an issue for the body of Christ.

The thing is: once a minister's affect has become *public* and has become, we can say, *very impactful,* once that's public, then there's no way to deal with it privately.

I know Brother Jackson had done what he could to deal with it privately but it was impossible so he had to mention these men's names.

What I want us to see this morning: when we look around the time of 90 to 100 AD, that's when we see, as John said, *the spirit of antichrist working*. [1John 4:3] It was a counterfeit. It was passed off as the real thing but it was false because *the truth had been changed*.

That's why John had to deal with it. He said: *you can't have the Father without the Son. But he who has the Father has the Son also*. [1John 2:23]

He had to explain that we really need to understand *both*.

We have to be saved, first of all, by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. We can't approach God *except by Jesus Christ*. Praise the Lord. But they were already trying to find a way around that and ignoring the Lord Jesus. That's impossible. It's only *if* we come through the Lord Jesus Christ that we have access to the Father. Praise the Lord.

You see: it was just *one truth*, albeit fundamental, where the devil began to *use men*. We read about them in Matthew 13. They were called *tares*.

It says: *while men slept*. [Matthew 13:25] What is that? Those were *the original apostles*. *While they slept*. How? We read when Stephen was stoned, it says: *he fell asleep*. [Acts 7:59-60] What does that mean? It means: *he died*.

Even Jesus said: *Lazarus sleepeth*. [John 11:11] What did he mean? He was saying: *he's dead*.

As these apostles began to die off – of course, for most of them it was not a natural death, *they were martyred* – but when they died off, here came the enemy, which is Satan himself, and he began to *inspire* certain characters.

Just like Cain, they had a certain feeling that they had to worship God but in their spirit they would not truly accept and believe the Word of God, *the revealed Word*. They had their own ideas and they even began to minister and preach false doctrine.

That began to enter in toward the end of the First Church Age.

So let's go to Revelation 4.

Now in Revelation chapter 2 and 3, we read about the Seven Churches. When we come to chapter 4, this is at the end of the Grace Age as we enter that 7th Seal Time Factor. I'm not going to read it all starting in verse 1 but we see how Jesus changes position from being an intercessor to being *seated as a judge*. [Revelation 4:2]

I want to read, starting in verse 6.

It says:

Revelation 4:6

And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal:

Now notice how John does not yet mention *people standing on the sea of glass*. That's not until chapter 15. [Revelation 15:2] We can say: that will go into the 70th Week of Daniel.

But *this* is still before that.

So let's keep reading.

Revelation 4:6

there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

Revelation 4:7

And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

These were *four living beings*.

We know that they are not actual animal beings. This is also not speaking of men. We have to see and understand that these are *angelic beings*. And above that, of course, is the leadership of the Holy Ghost and *how*, we can say: *these beings lift up a standard against the spirit of antichrist*.

Now we don't see that *here*, so some may say: well, where do you get that from? But we're going to see it in a minute.

Right now we're going to read about these *four beasts* and we may wonder: where do they come from? Well, *this is their introduction* as they have already *finished their work*. We see them here *around the throne*, they are not down here on earth, working.

But let's move on to Revelation 6.

I will say this: God did not allow that the intellect of natural man would be able to decipher the book of Revelation.

The natural mind says: chapter 6 comes after chapter 4, so *in time*, it has to be happening after chapter 4. That's why people who have written about the *four horsemen* have them off in the 70th Week of Daniel because clearly this is after chapter 4.

Throughout the book of Revelation, I have to say: *timewise*, it jumps *here*, it jumps *back*, it jumps *forward*, it jumps *back*, and only by the Spirit of God are we able to see the chronology. It's *not* in the way it was written but the Lord has opened that to the Church.

So let's go to chapter 6.

Of course, chapter 6 is where we read about the *Six Seals*.

We know that Brother Branham preached on these seals in March of 1963. Sometimes we might even say: Brother Branham opened these seals or he broke these seals. And we know what we mean when we say that but it was *not* Brother Branham who opened these seals. It was the Lord Jesus Christ.

He was *the only one worthy to open the seals*. [Revelation 5:9]

And until he commissioned an angel or until, we can say, he decided through the spiritual realm by the Holy Ghost that this would be given to somebody here on earth, we *didn't* know it.

But the Lord chose to open that to his servant, who at that time was: Brother Branham. *The understanding of the first six seals was opened* and Brother Branham ministered on those seals.

The first four specifically detail *how* the devil, or we can say: *the spirit of antichrist* has worked down through time throughout these *Seven Ages*.

Revelation 6:1

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals,

So we see they're not all opened at the same instant. In fact, when Brother Branham preached them, it was *day by day* that they were opened to him.

Revelation 6:1

and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

Now here it just says *one [of the four]* but we're going to be able to see *in context* that this was *the first beast which was like a lion*. [Revelation 4:7]

Revelation 6:2

And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

We haven't read through the chapter yet, but those of us who have already read this know that there are *four* [horses].



In order, they go: *white, red, black*, and it's called *pale* but other translations say: *ashen*.

So we are reading about the *white one* right now and it says: *he had a bow*.
[Revelation 6:2]

When we read about a white horse, we know Brother Jackson had a dream about a white horse, right? How that *represented the power of the Word*. And that could be the impression we would get from this as well. This could be the power of the Word. But as we see that this rider *had a bow*, it makes no mention of *arrows*.

I really like this picture. They actually had this picture with arrows but I erased them – in case you're wondering – because *arrows* are not mentioned in this verse.

You can't do anything with just a bow *except* – what you *can* do is – you can *bring fear*. Right?

Today we don't use bows as much. I use one when I'm hunting. I remember once I went hunting: I had the bow, I even had the arrows, but I forgot the release. And I couldn't do anything until I went and got a release.

We don't use bows as much nowadays but the arm we use more often today is a gun.

How many times have people had a gun without even having bullets but they can still rob a bank and take somebody's money?

If somebody were to pull out a gun and say: give me all your money, you *wouldn't* say: well I don't know if your gun has any bullets. You'd be trembling and without question you would *think* it has bullets. The only thing you would hope is: just take my money but please don't hurt me. Yet it's a *bluff*. There are no bullets. You could just run away. But you *wouldn't know* that.

It's the same thing here: the *spirit of antichrist* was a *counterfeit*. [Revelation 6:2] It was a *bluff* of what the Word of God was supposed to be. The enemy came in and began to *change* the foundational revelation of the Godhead.

Nonetheless, he still could not get to the true believer. Praise the Lord. The true believer continued along. So going into the Second Church Age, the devil began to change his tactic.

We read about the *first beast*. It was the one that said: *come and see*. [Revelation 6:1] What was that *first beast*? It was a *Lion Spirit*. [Revelation 4:7] It was the Spirit that could stand and say: *this is true*. It was the Spirit that was used to *counteract against the antichrist*.

God, by His Spirit, has always had a way – we can say – to *lift up a standard* for the Church throughout time.

Again, that's why Jesus could say: *the gates of hell shall not prevail*. [Matthew 16:18] As the devil would change his tactic, God Himself would lift up a standard to give *victory* to the Church.

It says:

Revelation 6:2
a crown was given unto him:

What does a *crown* represent? It represents *authority*.

So what was that? These men had *an appearance of authority* on the Word of God.

They didn't stand and preach: well, I think maybe this is true. But they preached *fervently as though it was the truth*.

Here it says:

Revelation 6:2

and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

To conquer what? *To conquer the souls of men.*

Those who didn't truly have the Holy Ghost *were deceived*. We can say: *they were conquered*.

That's why we said on Thursday: *the gates of hell never prevailed against the Church* [Matthew 16:18] but the gates of hell *have prevailed* against the unbeliever and the make-believer. So *they were conquered*.

Revelation 6:3

And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say: Come and see.

Revelation 6:4

And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

Even though a false doctrine had entered in, the enemy could still discern that there were still genuine Christians in their midst. So he began to change his tactic. The spirit of antichrist – Satan himself – began to change his tactic.

I'll say this as well: he never completely left what had been working. He never got rid of it but now he had something else that came into the forefront. And going all the way back to Cain, his tactic became: just kill the believer.

If, first of all, he couldn't get them to go back out into the world, and if he couldn't get them to believe error, then his tactic became: just kill them.

So there arose *a spirit of persecution*.

It already existed in some form in the First Church Age and even before that. Remember: Jesus Christ *was killed*. The Roman Army or I should say: *the Roman Government* had given the green light and had participated in that.

We also see others who were martyred: there was *Stephen* [Acts 7:59] there was *James* [Acts 12:2] and later into the 60s AD, there was Paul and Peter.

Peter was killed by the Romans, and so was Paul. They looked at this Christian religion as a great threat and there was great persecution against the Christian Church throughout the 2nd and 3rd centuries.

What was that? I have to say: *thousands were killed* under that persecution. There is a lot of history on that.

And there is *testimony* after *testimony*.

Remember, here it says: *the second beast said*. [Revelation 6:3] What was that *second beast*? It was *the calf*. [Revelation 4:7] What is a *calf*? It is a *sacrificial animal*. There were lambs, goats, and *calves*. The *calf* was an animal that could be subject to sacrifice.

A *calf* is not an aggressive animal. They did sacrifice goats – a goat is an animal that makes a big scandal when it gets killed – but a *calf* is more subdued. And God gave these Christians *the grace to be killed, to give their life*.

This morning I was talking about people who go skydiving. I couldn't do that. It would scare me to death. I know most people who do that don't die – in fact, it's very rare – but I'd be terrified.

My wife wants to go on a hot-air balloon ride. I don't even want to do that. I probably will because I love my wife and I trust the Lord, but I don't look forward to it.

But these people were tied to stakes and they would let out a tiger or a lion, or they would start a fire underneath them. The natural man would be screaming and running for his life – that's the natural response – but the Spirit of God gave *grace*.

And there is testimony after testimony of how these Christians responded just like Stephen who said: *I see the heavens opened. I see Jesus at the right hand of the Father*. [Acts 7:56] He said: *Lord, don't lay this sin to their charge*. [Acts 7:60]

Just imagine what bliss must have been in his heart that he could say: *don't charge them with this sin!* And then it says: *he fell asleep*. He was *killed by stoning* [Acts 7:59] but he wasn't screaming in pain.

So God gave these Christians *grace*.

Now we come down to the *third seal* in verse 5.

Revelation 6:5

And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

The *balance* is because they were going to *sell* something. And this horse was *black*. [Revelation 6:5] What does that represent? It represents *spiritual darkness*.

Basically the devil went back to what he had already started with the *white horse* because – again – even though these Christians were being killed, he still could *not* prevail. The true believer was still present. Praise the Lord.

Now God did begin to allow a certain amount of light to dim but there was still *a standard*, there was still a *basic gospel light*.

But here came the devil: he wanted to put that out *completely*. And we know how the enemy worked – we can say – *under that third horse* which is *the black horse*.

There came a point when Constantine the Emperor said: we have to have agreement among the churches. Let's have – I'm going to put this in modern-day terms – let's have all the pastors come and we're going to have – as a lot of people like to say today – we're going to have a *minister's meeting*. We're going to deal with this question of the Godhead and we're going to settle it. And 1800 pastors were willing to do that.

I have to say: they should have thought: how is it possible that a *secular man* is going to have the leadership to settle a question of doctrine *in the church*? But they allowed him to do that. And what happened? We had the Council of Nicea.



By that point, there were those who believed the *Trinity Doctrine*, and there was another doctrine called *Arianism* which did not see God as three but viewed Jesus as the Son of God. That was the minority. Not many who viewed it that way. And even *Arianism* had certain errors but all in all, it was closer to the truth.

Nonetheless, they had their meeting and they decided that the official doctrine of the Christian Church, *the universal Christian Church*, was that God – well they said: *He is One*, that's the way they said it, but then they immediately said – *He is manifest in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost*. And they went on trying to explain it.

Even today, 1500 years later, people still say: nobody can explain it. They say: it's the greatest mystery. Well yes *it is* because, first of all, it's a *false doctrine*. It came from the devil. It's *false*.

God is *not* manifest in three persons but there is *one God*. And yes, there are *three offices* but it's *not* three persons. It's *not* three different minds. It's the mind of God which is *one mind*, and that's the *only* mind of God.

Then there is His Son. He has *his mind* – his *human mind* – which is subject to the mind of God. That is *not* the Trinitarian Doctrine.

I have to say: the devil was sneaky because they didn't come and say: we're going to start a new church called the Catholic Church. No, they just came to establish and decide what the Christian doctrine was. Constantine recognized it and he said: that's the Christian Church, *the universal Christian Church*.

Well, another way to say *universal* is the term *Catholic*. So the *universal church* and the *Catholic Church* are the same thing.

Not long after that, they said: what about when there are other issues? How is that going to be settled? Who's going to be in charge of that? They said: well, we need a bishop of bishops, a pastor of pastors. Who should that be?

And as the secular world was ruled from Rome, the consensus was that *the Bishop of Rome* would be the pastor of pastors, the bishop of bishops.

So *the Bishop of Rome* became the head of the church, later known as *the Father of the Church*. And of course, that's where the word *pope* comes from. That's what *pope* means, it means: *father*, the *Father of the Church*.

So the Catholic Church was born. And it was a *counterfeit* to the true church. But at this point it was not just one doctrine, it was *the whole church*. There was no life in that church, there was *spiritual darkness*. That's why we have *the black horse*. [Revelation 6:5]



It was *spiritual darkness*. People were deceived, I have to say: at a level not seen before. It went *full-on carnality*. And the leadership of that church began to be, we can say: *greedy*. Greedy for power, money, and all of those things that a true minister should separate himself from.

It became what could be seen with the eye. Just as there were natural meeting places, it then became *the building* of that meeting place that began to be the expression of how spiritual the church was. If it was a more beautiful building, then it was considered a better and more spiritual church, a more spiritual assembly.

Let's go to Revelation 17.

Here John sees this woman.

I'll start in verse 3:

Revelation 17:3

So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

So she's riding that European Beast.

Revelation 17:4

And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

Revelation 17:5

And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABONINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Revelation 17:6

And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints,

Again, history itself tells us that's the Romans.

Revelation 17:6

and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her,

With everything else we just read: *the abomination, the filthiness, the blood of the martyrs*, we would think John would say: when I saw her, I was *repulsed*.

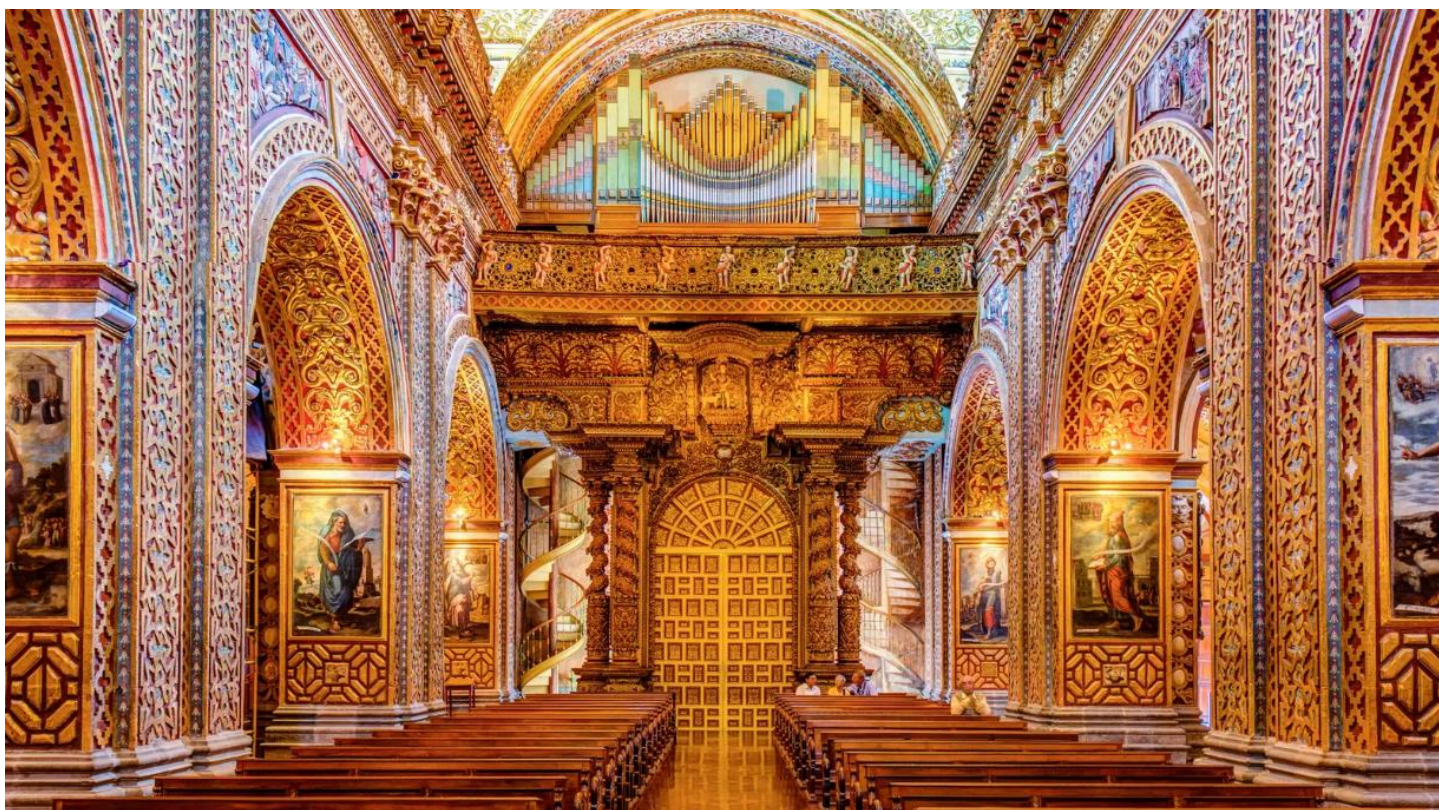
But he says:

Revelation 17:6

I wondered with great admiration.

So what was he seeing here? Of course he was seeing a vision, but it shows that the *natural* eye looking at the Catholic Church says: *how great!*

Here I have a picture of just *one* cathedral:



Who knows *how many hundreds* of Cathedrals there are in the world?

In the cities where these Cathedrals are, the houses many times are *in poverty*. Other buildings are maybe a little better than the houses but still *nothing that great*. But in these Cathedrals, it's a different world! The beauty, the splendour!

The natural man would say: surely this is a place where the Spirit of God dwells. I'm saying: *the natural man* because look at the beauty, the majesty! But I have to say: it's *not* the Spirit of God that dwells there. It just the opposite. It's *the spirit of antichrist deceiving the world*.

There are 1.3 billion Catholics. When I say that, I hope everybody understands: I'm not speaking badly or criticizing any of them as a person. I thank God because I know if it wasn't for the grace of God, I would think the Catholic Church is where it's at.

I'm not saying we're smarter than them. I'm sure many of them are far smarter than us. That's not what it's about. It's not about our intelligence. It's *the grace of God*.

I had a lot I wanted to read this morning but now I'm looking at the time.

Last Sunday, I mentioned that if the Lord Jesus Christ was to come back today and just dwell among us, the religious world would not recognize him. They would say: there's no way that's Jesus! He's calling us all kinds of names, he's harsh, he says hard things, that's *not* the Lord!

But if there is somebody they can see today and say: oh he's like the Lord Jesus himself, who would that be? That would be *the pope*. I hope you understand what I'm saying. He's nothing like the Lord but that shows the *level of deception*.

The pope said this *today*, February 2nd.

Here's the article. This is not the whole article but I pulled the important points.

Love and Light: Pope Francis reflects on Christ's presentation

In a profound reflection delivered during Sunday's Angelus prayer, Pope Francis emphasized how Jesus Christ reveals the ultimate criterion by which all history is judged: love.

"Whoever loves lives, whoever hates dies," the pope told pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square on February 2, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

Francis emphasized that Jesus embodies universal salvation, calling it "an awe-inspiring truth emphasizing that God's redemptive love is fully embodied in one person."

Finally, addressing Jesus as a sign of contradiction, Francis explained how Christ reveals the deeper truths of human hearts, with history ultimately judged by the criterion of love.

Pope Francis reflects on Christ's presentation.

And look at the title: *Love and light*.

Now this isn't me, this is the writer of the article. He says: *in a profound reflection delivering Sunday's Angelus prayer, Pope Francis emphasized how Jesus Christ reveals the ultimate criterion by which all history is judged: love.*

That's something the Message people would be happy to preach. That's something a lot of those who follow Brother Jackson would say *amen* to today.

Whoever loves lives. Whoever hates dies. That's what the Pope said.

Jumping down to the third paragraph: *Francis emphasized that Jesus embodies universal salvation, calling it an awe-inspiring truth emphasizing that God's redemptive love is fully embodied in one person.*

Well we can see where this is leading. It's not going to be too far down the road that there's going to be *one person* here on earth who will supposedly be reflecting that same love.

Finally, addressing Jesus as a sign of contradiction – I don't know how he gets contradiction – Francis explained how Christ reveals the deeper truths of human hearts.

I will say: I'm not concerned about *the deeper truths of human hearts*. I want the deeper truths of the Word of God. But anyway, he says: *with history ultimately judged by the criterion of love.*

So if you have love, you're on the right track, according to Pope Francis.

Again, yes we know there is a right way to see love. But we also know what has been called *love* over the last few years is exactly the same thing Pope Francis is calling *love*. It's that *carnal attitude*: we all have to be together. We all have to tolerate one another. That's what he's calling *love*.

They say: it doesn't matter what you believe, your understanding of scripture. Well, I'll agree with that to a point but once they begin preaching it, once they try to influence others, then that has to be dealt with.

And even if they don't preach it, if someone has it in their heart, they have to get that right *first* if they're going to be in the right place with the Lord.

With this article we just read here, we can see: this is getting closer and closer to the Pope basically expressing that he's the representation of Jesus Christ himself. Look at the title: *Pope Francis reflects on Christ's presentation.*

I'll go ahead and close. I know I went a little long this morning so let's go ahead and close.