REVELATION FOR THE REVOLUTION (Part 3)

• The real enemy (Ep 6:10-13)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.  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.  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.

• Dragon--Satan (Re 12:1-6, 9)

 1. 7 heads with 7 crowns--total authority on earth (3; Mt 4:8-9)

 2. 10 horns--complete power (3; 1 Jn 5:19)

 3. Called

 *- Serpent--deceiver (9; Ge 3:1-7)*

 *- Devil--accuser (9; Zc 3:1-6)*

 *- Satan--adversary (9; 1 Pe 5:8)*

• Beast from the Sea--Spirit of Antichrist (Re 13:1-10; 1 Co 2:12; Ep 2:2; 2 Th 2:7; 1 Jn 4:3)

 1. From sea-- nations; uses authorities (1; 17:15; Is 17:12)

 2. With 7 heads--Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek, Roman, & World Gov’t? (1; 17:9-10; Da 7:17)

 3. With 10 crowns on 10 horns--10 kings (1; 17:12; Da 7:24)

 4. Like leopard, bear, lion, & beast--earthly kingdoms (2; Da 7:1-7, 17)

 5. Given dragon's power—Satan’s authority (2; 12:3)

 6. Has fatal head wound that heals--recovering after Resurrection (3; Ge 3:15; Ac 8:1)

 7. Has whole world following it & Satan (3-4, 7-8; Da 7:23; Lk 18:8)

 8. Utters blasphemies for 42 months--opposed to God during New Testament Age (5-6)

• Beast from the Earth--Antichrist (Re 13:11-18; 2 Th 2:1-12; 1 Jn 2:18-23)

 1. From earth--not heaven-sent, but uses religion (11; 2 Th 2:3)

 2. Looks like lamb, but speaks like dragon--Christ-like appearance, yet isn't (11; 2 Co 11:14; Mt 7:15)

 3. Makes people worship Spirit of Antichrist (12; Da 7:8, 25; 2 Th 2:4)

 4. Performs miracles (13; Mt 24:24; 2 Th 2:9)

 5. Deceives (14; 2 Th 2:10-12)

 6. Kills those who won't worship Spirit of Antichrist (15; Da 7:21, 25)

 7. Institutes mark of the beast--cattle, slaves marked (16-18)

 *- Computer chip for purchases*

 *- Name--letters of name given numerical value & added up (gematria)*

 *- Number--symbolizes created thing (6), trying to be Trinity (3), falling short of God's perfection (7)*

 *- Symbol for whom you worship (14:11; 20:4)*

• Satan gives mark; God gives seal (7:4-8; Ep 1:13; 2 Co 1:21-22)

 • Head (attitude) or hand (actions) reveals your focus (Dt 6:4-9)

• The real problem & solution (Ro 3:9-24)

For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin.  As it is written:

“There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” “Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.”  “The poison of vipers is on their lips.”  “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”  “Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know.”  “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”  Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.  Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.  This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

DEI (DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION)

• Definitions (old and new)

1a. Diversity—A range of many people or things that are very different from each other (*Oxford Dictionary*)

1b. Diversity—Conscious practices that involve: 1) Practicing mutual respect for qualities and experiences that are different from our own; 2) Recognizing that personal, cultural and institutionalized discrimination creates and sustains privileges for some while creating and sustaining disadvantages for others; 3) Building alliances across differences so that we can work together to eradicate all forms of discrimination. (<http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/diversity/definition.html>)

2a. Equity—Justice according to natural law or right, specifically: freedom from bias or favoritism (*Merriam-Webster*

 *Dictionary*)

2b. Equity—Individuals experiencing or receiving something different (not equal) in order to maintain fairness and

 access (<https://www.brandeis.edu/diversity/resources/definitions.html>)

3a. Equality—Being equal in rights, status, advantages, etc. (*Oxford Dictionary*)

3b. Equality—The mechanism for keeping the marginalized in their place by obscuring larger structural systems of

 inequality … [that] fool[s] people into believing that they [have] more freedom and choice than societal

 structures actually allow (Özlem Sensoy and Robin DiAngelo, *Is Everyone Really Equal?)*

4a. Inclusion—State of being included (*Merriam-Webster Dictionary*)

4b. Inclusion—Practices that strive to bring groups together to make decisions in collaborative, mutual, and

 equitable ways (<https://www.brandeis.edu/diversity/resources/definitions.html>)

5a. Justice—Establishment or determination of rights according to the rules of law (*Merriam-Webster Dictionary*)

5b. Social justice—Distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society *(Oxford Dictionary)*

• **Marxist worldview**

 1. Humanity’s problem: rich oppress poor

• **Cultural Marxist worldview**

1. Replaces oppression of rich vs. poor with white vs. non-white

2. US founded on racism, oppression, & white supremacy

3. Racism not just individual bias; embedded in legal, political, educational systems (all favor whites)

4. Goal is to change Western civilization

• Loss of free speech

1. Herbert Marcuse’s essay “Repressive Tolerance” (1970)

2. Goal is “shifting the balance between left and right by restraining the liberty of the right,” and in this way

 “strengthening the oppressed against the oppressors”

3. Legacy: cancel culture, silencing, shaming & violence

• Loss of religious freedom

 “The term ‘Christian hegemony’ may startle readers who are not aware of the pervasive cultural position of normative Christianity in everyday life within US schools, neighborhoods, and the workplace. Hegemony is another way of describing the cultural and societal level of oppression, of cultural imperialism as a form of oppression…There are many ways in which minority religions are affected by the ignorance, obliviousness, misguided intentions, and harassment by a hegemonic majority.**One form is the experience by non-Christians of Christian evangelism.”** (*Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice*)

• Loss of equal treatment for “equity”

1. Equity—receiving something different (not equal) in order to maintain fairness (Brandeis U.)

2. Cheryl Harris (UCLA)

*- Suspend private property rights*

*- Redistributing land/wealth along racial lines*

3. Ibram X. Kendi (Boston U.)—proposes “Department of Antiracism”

*- Nullify, veto, or abolish any law*

*- Curtail speech of political leaders deemed insufficiently “antiracist”*

*- “The only remedy to racist discrimination is antiracist discrimination. The only remedy to past*

 *discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future*

 *discrimination.” (*How to be an Antiracist)

• Biblical view of **justice**

1. Act justly with impartiality toward rich or poor (Micah 6:8; Exodus 23:2–3; Leviticus 19:15; James 2:9)

2. Care for needy, widow, and orphan (1 John 3:17–18; Deuteronomy 15:10; James 1:27)

3. Christians should be against injustice, partiality & oppression but should not stereotype & use collective guilt