

## Two kinds of Lambs

In this message, we shall be examining "TWO KINDS OF LAMBS": the lamb upon mount Zion (Revelation 14:1-5) and the beast out of the earth, in the shape of a lamb (Revelation 13:11). Recall that from a heavenly viewpoint to which we were invited (Revelation 4:1), we are able to see two sets of contrasting pictures/imageries. They set forth two distinctive histories emerging from the same holy beginning. The seven typical churches were to feed these two streams according to the faithfulness or unfaithfulness of her members. The one in faithfulness moving on approvingly under God to more and more of His glory, and, the other in unfaithfulness, sliding down into more and more degeneration.

The first lamb we would be discussing in this message is that described as 'a beast out of the earth'. This beast-lamb represents a body of persons who are members of the seven typical churches of Revelation 2 and 3 that did not hearken to the warnings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the second part of this meditation, we would be looking at the second kind of lamb which according to Revelation 14:1 is seen standing upon mount Zion. A reading of this verse of scripture will show that a reference is made to other lambs in the same order. In Revelation 14:1, John said,

"And I looked and lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand other lambs, having his Father's name written in their foreheads".

The phrase 'other lambs' is read as included in that verse, because we are told these persons carry the Father's name upon their foreheads. Thus, we understand that if the principal figure, Christ, is shown as a Lamb, then, those who are arising in His image and

likeness can also be pictured as lambs.

So, we have two kinds of lambs, representing two distinct classes of persons who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The characteristic difference between the two classes is related to the matter of faithfulness or unfaithfulness.

Our specific burden is to focus on the first of these two lambs with a view to calling us out of those things that answer to unfaithfulness. When any believer's life is x-rayed, there would be discovered things that are not approved in the sight of God. No one has attained to moral and spiritual perfection. Our path to victory, among other things, consists of rooting out of our members, things that answer to carnality (Colossians 3:1-5). It is when a believer is not living in response to the need to watch over his life daily that there develops in the course of time the things shown in Revelation 13:11-18).

In the language of prophecy, we said a beast represents a kingdom, and, when it is shown as springing out from the earth, in contrast to the sea, it speaks of a religious kingdom. In a sense, this religious kingdom can simply be called Christendom. Christendom, as generally understood is a reference to the church world. Here, it is given the specific meaning of that arm of the church that is living in rebellion and disobedience to Christ. It is thoroughly organised, and on the whole has all the characteristics of a kingdom. Christendom is set in opposition to the kingdom of Christ. The great irony is that the world of mankind is made to see this alternate kingdom as the kingdom of Christ. Christendom professes to be of Christ. The orthodox visible church systems have long gone into apostasy and in the main they pose no serious problem to the Spirit-filled believer. There is however an arm of the alternate kingdom that more fittingly satisfy this imagery of the beast out of the earth. Evangelicalism and Pentecostalism in growing unfaithfulness is this beast out of the earth at this time of the

end.

There is however a faithful house in our world receiving and bearing the marks of Christ. The prophet Ezekiel calls it a house within a house. The Lord commands His faithful servants to show the house to the house (Ezekiel 43:10). Obedience to this command may be seen as resulting to the series of messages being ministered through this medium to His people. All has not gone altogether sour among the Evangelical and Pentecostal assemblies. We believe that quite a number of the Lord's people will hearken to the voice of His command and break free from all rebellion and treachery.

Now, we said that if the beast coming out of the sea (the unregenerate world of mankind) is political, then that which is coming out of the earth (the saved, but earthly minded believers) must be religious. Earth, in this context, talks of the earthly minded among them who claim to belong to God and have Christ as their Lord and Saviour. When a congregation of the Lord's people give themselves over to more and more of carnality, a system of things develop even in their religious services that agree with this description.

The beast coming out of the earth is said to have two horns. Horns in scriptures speak of power. In the natural, any animal having horns develop this feature before its birth. It is an innate characteristic. In the operations of this beast out of the earth, the horns play a dominant role. What things in a church set-up may answer to the symbolism of 'horns'? The Word and the Spirit are these things. The Word has to do with the teachings that constitute the belief system of the people. The Spirit is here used of the powers of spiritual control at work among the people.

We are further told that although it is shaped like a lamb, it speaks like a dragon. These church organisations have an outward carriage that is harmless. What could be more harmless than a lamb? Thickly set in their own ways but professing to be mouthpieces of the Lord Jesus Christ they resist violently any sustained attempt to call them

back to the path of righteousness, truth and faithfulness. Like a dragon, they ferociously attack servants of the truth who draw attention to their hypocrisies, treacheries, iniquities and rebellion. When not in that mood, they appear like a lamb. We shall look at this bit at a more appropriate time, possibly in volume 2 of this series.

We have observed that the symbolism of a beast stands for organisations and kingdoms. It also represents prominent persons within such set-ups. For example, in Daniel 7:23, we are told that the four beasts shown in Daniel 7:3 represents four kingdoms. But in the 17th verse, it is noted that ".these great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.". So, prominent persons in a bestial kingdom may also be regarded as symbolic beasts.

Now, the next thing we discovered in Revelation 13 is that this beast coming out of the earth, shaped like a lamb having two horns, but speaking like a dragon, has power to work miracles. It increasingly patterns its activities after the first beast (the beast from the sea). Since the first beast is political, it means this beast from the earth in patterning its activities after the first beast will take on more and more secularity in its operations.

The Romanish church system is, for all intent and purpose, a secular institution with a strong religious character. In the ancient world, it was usual for sovereign states to assign to its kings the status of a deity. The kings were the heads of their religious institutions and custodians of their pagan beliefs and practices. Combining state functions with the religious, the kings and their immediate lieutenants exercised authoritarian control over their subjects. The Evangelical and Pentecostal assemblies, when unfaithful, are fast gravitating into the same mould as their harlot mother church. Their leaders are little gods over their little kingdoms but with no less vicious power as expressed in the word, 'dragon'.

In closing, we want to draw attention to the one prominent characteristic of this beast from the earth, something that stands out above others. More verses are given to that one characteristic above any other in Revelation 13. This has to do with the image of the beast. We are told that the number of his name is 666 which men receive on their right hand or upon their forehead. In volume 2 of this series, we will be able to look into this in details. Of course, there are many conjectures as to what this number of his name means and what the image of the beast or the mark of the beast means. We will be able to take all of that in the second volume.

Now, we come to Revelation 14, the passage that details the characteristics of the second kind of lamb (the true Lamb). We will take the several characteristics in turns. It is said that the 144,000 other lambs are virgins. The reference is not to physical marriage. These lamb-like saints have virgin-heart purity towards the Lord. They are not involved in mixed worship. They worship the living God alone. This is quite something of importance since in our day, so many are busy bowing the knees to human gods, president/founders and general overseers. Many are ready today to abandon their own thinking and take on the whims and caprices of their reverend pastors. And it is exactly this same thing we are to do in relation to Christ that men do in relation to men.

Next, we are told ".these follow the Lamb withersoever He goeth.". God has purposed that the out-workings of redemption should be secured in the Lord Jesus Christ. He it is who has the blue-print of the Father's plan. He carries out the Father's purpose from one stage to another. As sheep of His pasture, we are simply required to be thoroughly focused on Him, following in His footsteps. Whatever the Lord is doing at any time determines the devotions and labours of His people, more so His servants.

We are told that no guile is found in their mouth and that they had the Father's name written on their foreheads. In the first part,

it

is observed that these footsteps-of-Christ followers are given to Truth. In practical terms, this means that they do not handle the word of God deceitfully. They also speak the truth in all material and inter-personal relationships. In the second part, there's revealed that these saints of God are taking up the nature of the Father progressively until fully sealed with the same. Read Revelation 7:1-4 The mark sealed on the foreheads of the 144,000 is actually set forth in Revelation 14 as the Father's name. So, those lambs have their characteristic marks that identify them as being faithful and true.

We said that the mark of the beast is either upon the hands or upon the forehead. And here in Revelation 14, we find that the mark of the faithful Lamb is also upon the forehead. We shall show by other scriptures that it is also upon the hands. What the mark of the beast is and what things relate to it shall be discussed under the subject heading, 'THE MARK OF THE BEAST'. It is sufficient for the present time to challenge us unto a faithful walk with God. We can be sure that in the spirit realm, we would be seen as becoming more and more like Christ. May the Lord bless you richly, in Jesus name.

My dearly Beloved Brethren, we will stop here for now. In our next meeting, we shall be considering "THE TWO KINDS OF WOMEN" and as usual, we do earnestly covet your prayers. Once again we say 'Remain Blessed' in Him who alone is the Author and Finisher (the Pioneer and Perfecter) of our faith.