

Revelation 13: 4-6; "A Mouth speaking Great Things", Sermon # 92 in the series - "The Faithful and True Witness", Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on September 7th, 2008, in the Afternoon Worship Service.

It is a marvelous thing to note the sovereignty of God in relation to the Antichristian powers which we are studying. In verse 5 it says, "And he was given a mouth speaking great things...." Who gave him a mouth? In verse 7 it says, "It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them." Who granted him this ability? I have to believe that it was God who gave him this ability. It is indeed true that in a more immediate sense that it was the dragon, or the devil, who gave the beast his power, his throne and great authority. But what we are seeing here is God's sovereignty even over the Devil. It is a great comfort to God's saints to know that even in the greatest evils which exist in the world today, or the ones that will come, that God is fully sovereign over them. We see this over and over again in the Bible. We see it in the case of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who refused to let the children of Israel go that they might worship God in the wilderness. God was perfectly sovereign over him. Exodus 3: 3 says, "And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply My signs and wonders in the land of Egypt." "But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay my hand on Egypt and bring My armies and My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments." And speaking of Old Testament Babylon in words which were typical of the New Testament Babylon that we are studying, it says in Jeremiah 51: 36 it says, "Therefore thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will plead your case and take vengeance for you.' "I will dry up her sea and make her springs dry." "Babylon shall become a heap, a dwelling place for jackals, and astonishment and a hissing, without an inhabitant." The New Testament Church, we are seeing here, has her own Babylon by which she has been taken captive by during the 1260 days prophecy. It has been a good long time that the Church of Jesus Christ has been in this Babylonian captivity. God is the one who ordained that she be brought into it, and it is God who, for His own good purposes permits her to stay in it until the time is fulfilled.

But just because God grants that the Devil give a man a mouth and ability to use it does not mean that He approves of the way that it is used. A politician may have great ability to speak; he may have great oratorical skills which have been given to him by God and yet he may use them to turn people to evil. He may use the very gifts that God has given him to blaspheme God. God certainly sees this as vile and sinful rebellion against His government of the World; his government of all people and things in it. This was, no doubt the way that God viewed Hitler in the 1930s when He raised him up to power over the German people. Hitler was a man who talked about his faith in God, he talked about his faith in God's providence, he talked about his supposed Christian religion in terms of God helping those who helped themselves. But his was a God of forces and fortresses just like the Antichrist which we will study this afternoon. By smooth words he turned the people to godlessness. This is the way that it always is with the Antichristian Beast of the sea. The political forces of

Europe, medieval and modern, the 10 kingdoms of the beast, have all at various times in the history of the 1260 years prophecy, used this tactic to deceive people. It is the tactic of conducting aggressive political wars in the name of Jesus Christ. And these wars begin with waging war verbally upon the true God of heaven and the true saints of the Lord Jesus Christ. Can a man wage war with his mouth? This text says that he can. And so what I would like to do this afternoon is to attempt to show you the meaning of "a mouth speaking great things". And first I would like to show you the blasphemies of this mouth. And secondly, the "war" of this mouth. And lastly, the "prevailing" of this mouth.

1st - The blasphemies of this mouth (Verses 5 and 6)

"And the beast was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months." The truth of the matter about the beast of the sea is that he is the political side of the Papal power, as I have tried to show you in past sermons. The word "sea" relates to the realm of political and civil power over the 10 kingdoms. The realm of the "earth" as we find it in verse 12 in the 2nd beast, is the realm of the church. Satan was cast out of "heaven" in Chapter 12, verse 9; from his high position of openly and publicly persecuting the true Church of Jesus Christ through the political realm of the Pagan Roman emperors. He was cast down to the earth; that is, to work a new strategy through false doctrine and false authority within the visible Church and bring the political power of the emperor into the church itself by means of creating a Papal system of false government within the Church of Jesus Christ. When Satan succeeded in doing this, his goal was to have a fallible man to speak infallibly; to deceive people concerning the truth. And because the Pope was in the office of ultimate power as the Vicar of Christ, he could then substitute false doctrine and practice into the worship of the Church in the place of the orthodox and the true doctrine of the Bible. The Papal office would be an Emperor ruling over the Emperors and Kings of nations wherever he could. The Beast coming out of the sea is the Papal power acting upon and through the political governments, the 10 kingdoms emerging out of the fallen Pagan Roman empire, so that they would do his bidding and persecute and kill true Christians physically if he could convince the rulers of those nations to submit to him and to join him in this. This persecution and killing of true Christians was prevalent for hundreds of years before the time of the Reformation and even somewhat beyond it. And since the time of the Reformation, even though the physical persecution became less and less, this same Papal power is still being used by Satan now, to deceive the whole world as regards the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Salvation is not sacramental; but the Pope says that it is. Salvation is by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, but the Pope would have Christ sacrificed continually in the Mass. Authority in matters of doctrine and practice is not found in the Pope or in the Holy Roman Church, it is found in Jesus Christ who is presently reigning over His Church by the Holy Spirit, through the preaching and teaching of His Word the Bible. But the Pope was "given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies. And this authority to war with his mouth, this power to continue to practice, to prevail, and to prosper by his words

would continue the whole time of the 42 months. The 42 months are the 3 and a half years, composed of 1260 prophetic days, which is the same time period of 1260 years that we have been mentioning all along as the time of the prevailing of the Antichristian powers against the true Church of Jesus Christ.

Now what are the blasphemies of this mouth which speaks great things? Bishop Thomas Newton in his work, *On the Prophecies*, says this: "Blasphemy against God may be said to be of two kinds, not only speaking dishonorably of the Supreme Being, but likewise attributing to the creature what belongs to the Creator, as in idolatry; which is often the sense of the word in Scripture; as in Isaiah 65: 7, "They have burnt incense upon the mountains, and blasphemed me upon the hills; therefore I will measure their former work into their bosom." "The Pope, therefore, blasphemes the name of God by assuming the Divine titles and honors to himself." And we must ask as Bishop Newton does in his book, "...and what can be greater things than blasphemies, than the claims of "universal bishop", "infallible judge of all controversies", "sovereign of kings", and "disposer of kingdoms", "vicegerent of Christ", and "God upon earth!" In our days the Pope is called, "his Holiness". These are titles which should never be given to any man other than the Lord Jesus Christ or God Himself. This is the blasphemy against God Himself.

Now 2ndly - I would like to speak of the "war" of the Beast's mouth. (Verse 7)

The war of the Beast's mouth is a making war with the saints to overcome them. He will overcome them in only 2 temporary senses which ultimately will not prevail in the sight of God or men. He will overcome them with the propaganda of his blasphemies. And he will overcome them at times by taking their physical lives. We will speak of the Beast's taking the physical lives of the saints in a later message. We have already spoken of how he will overcome them at the end of the 1260 days prophecy in Chapter 11, verse 7. It is his propaganda that is going to prevail for a short time. The issue is whose testimony is going to prevail. Will it be God's testimony that Jesus Christ is the Savior and Lord of all, and that all must believe in Him to have eternal life? Or will be the testimony of the Devil; the lie that it is enough to accept a substitute for the real gospel and the real Jesus Christ in a sacramental salvation and believe the lies of Popish doctrine? For the Popish doctrine is simply an extension of all the false doctrine put forth since the days of Cain and Abel. Will God's view of what is an acceptable sacrifice prevail, or will it be man's view of what true worship should be, with Satan's help? For the Beast coming out of the sea, it is the latter.

But turn over with me to Daniel Chapter 11, verse 36 and you will see the blasphemy against His name. Here in Chapter 11 is a prophecy regarding the Antiochus the Great and his wicked son, Antiochus Epiphanies, who did so much harm to the Jewish people. These men were successive kings of Syria and Antiochus Epiphanies is called in verse 21, "a vile person, to whom they would not give the honor of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue." He lived from about 217 B.C - 167 B.C. He did many mean and unspeakable things to

the Jewish people. He stopped their daily sacrifices and offerings, and defiled the temple of God with his soldiers sacrificing a pig on the altar and by bringing harlots into the sacred places of the temple. But when we come to verse 36 we find someone besides Antiochus Epiphanies being spoken of. It says there, "Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done." John Gill says in his commentary, "This cannot be Antiochus, for he could not do as he would, being curbed by the Romans, as has been observed; and there are many things which follow that cannot be applied to him; rather the Roman people, under the name of a king or kingdom, rising up to universal monarchy, upon the decline of the Grecian empire, are meant; and who did what they would, subdued kingdoms at their pleasure, and gave laws to the whole world; and particularly in the little horn, or Rome Papal, antichrist, (Daniel 7:8,20, 24, 25), of which Antiochus was a type, and is called by the same name, (Daniel 8:9) and the transition is easy from the type to the antitype, with whom everything said agrees: for the pope of Rome, claiming infallibility, does, or has done, whatsoever he pleases; regarding neither the laws of God nor man, but dispensing with both at his pleasure; coining new doctrines; appointing new ordinances; setting himself up above councils and princes; taking upon him a power to depose kings and set them up as he pleases; with many other things done by him in an arbitrary and despotic way, both civil and religious; and with none does the character agree as with him." I think that we need to understand that the person referred to here in verse 36 could not possibly be Antiochus Epiphanies. He did not exalt and magnify himself above every god, but the Roman Papal Antichrist did, and still does. Neither did he speak blasphemies against the God of gods. He did regard the god of his fathers, Jupiter Olympus.

But these words do very well describe the Papal Roman Antichrist. He exalts and magnifies himself above every god, and he shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods." "He has and is and will prosper until the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done." What is the wrath which is being spoken of here? One aspect of it is the wrath and anger of God for the Jews having rejected their Messiah. The Lord Jesus Christ left their house desolate when He approached the cross in Matthew 23: 37. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!" "How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!" "See!" "Your house is left to you desolate...." God left them desolate as a nation in 70 A.D. when He ordained and permitted Titus and the Roman armies to take the city and destroy it and the temple. His anger and wrath has been upon them as a people until this day for those crimes. But still they are beloved for the sake of the Fathers and for the sake of God's own purpose to save them as a nation at the end of the 1260 days; to bring them into the Church when the Antichristian powers fall. The 1260 days are a earthly judgment of God's wrath against the apostate Christian church as well; turning away from the purity and simplicity of the gospel of Christ

and allowing themselves to be corrupted to the place that these false authorities of Popes and Bishops and Priests took over the church and the Word of God and the preaching of faith in Christ was set aside, to be replaced by 7 sacraments. This wrath will have its accomplishment.

The other blasphemies mentioned are that he blasphemes God's tabernacle and those who dwell in heaven. This tabernacle of God's could either refer to Christ Himself, He who tabernacled among men as it says in John 1: 14, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." The word dwelt there could also be translate "tabernacled". But it could also refer to the dwelling place of the tabernacles of the Most High. It could refer the true Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is, he speaks evil of those who really know the Lord, despising their professions of faith(that God tabernacles with His Church through the Holy Spirit of Jesus). He blasphemes the true Church because they are not approved by him; they will not come into the Mother church, the Roman Catholic church, outside of which there is no salvation. This blasphemy is that those who hold with the Pope are saying that God does not dwell with men who simply trust in Jesus. They must be in the false Church to know this. The blasphemy of those who dwell in heaven may refer to the Pope's having made the martyred saints of old and Mary the mother of Jesus into mediators and intercessors on the same level as Christ. Or perhaps it refers to what was done with the reputations of many of the Protestant martyrs of the faith; slanderously charging them with being heretics when all the while they were defending the true gospel and the Word of God with their lives. These are the tactics of the Beast rising up out of the sea.

Then 3rdly - I would like you to see the "prevailing" of this mouth. (Verse 7)

"It was granted him to make war with the saints and to overcome them." "And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation." This verse shows us that the spread of the false doctrine of Roman Catholicism will spread contemporaneously with the spread of the true gospel throughout the time of the 1260 days prophecy. The mouth of the Beast will prevail in this sense; that the propaganda of Beast of the Sea, the propaganda that salvation comes through the Roman Catholic Church, will continue to be forced upon the world through every media possible in our days and in the days to come until the end of the 1260 years when it will finally prevail, not only over all of the 10 kingdoms of the Beast (Europe), but also to a great extent over every tribe, tongue, people, and nation. It will seem at that time that the true cause of the gospel will have been lost in many areas of the world. And that will be because the Beast coming out of the sea, the Papal power, as it convinces nations to side with it in the political governments of their people, will have seen the expediency of siding with Rome's sacramental salvation, her desire to help the poor and needy physically, and her desire to help in all human related causes of righteousness. The world will not see or acknowledge that men are sinners needing the Savior, and that this is what people need to be truly helped. This is what has been happening in the world in our day, for many years

now. And this strategy of the Beast is succeeding. This Beast coming out of the sea has changed its policy over the last 150 years. It used to be that this Beast openly persecuted the true saints of Christ in the 500 years before the Reformation. Then she covertly persecuted the true saints in many countries of Europe and elsewhere for the next several hundred years. Then she decided that she must change because of the advent of real religious freedom being promoted in the constitution of the United States of America. The true gospel was beginning to conquer all the falsehoods that the Popes put forward by the early 1800s. So a change was made in policy, to try to make Roman Catholicism and the doctrines of the Popes appealing to the people of many nations. There has been a concern for the physical wellbeing of the poor, a concern to be seen as the church that helps the needy among the people. And this strategy has somewhat succeeded. It is the propaganda of a humanistic Christianity. There has been no change in the basic Antichristian doctrinal stance. It is a trying to change the image that is put forward by the Beast. The Beast is not a Beast, but really a helper of many downtrodden peoples. This, once again, is the prevailing of the mouth of the Beast. And it will continue until the end of the 1260 years. No person can be truly, lastingly, and eternally saved and helped except through the true gospel of Jesus Christ. May each of us pray that the set time to favor the true Church will come soon and that we will continue to think about how each of us can be faithful to spread the gospel even in the darkest of times.