

**Revelation 13: 7-10; "The Patience and Faith of the Saints", Sermon # 93
in the series - "The Faithful and True Witness", Delivered by Pastor Paul
Rendall on October 5th, 2008, in the Afternoon Worship Service.**

How extensive is the authority of beast from the sea over the visible church of Jesus Christ during the 1260 days prophecy? Well verse 7 tells us that "it was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them." "And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation." I personally find it hard to believe that these words mean anything other than what they say plainly. The beast rising out of the sea will be granted authority which will overcome the saints throughout the whole world when the 1260 years draws to its close. In what sense does it overcome the Church? It kills the Church's witness. The beast is given authority and power to have a great and terrible effect on Christianity in general all during this whole time period, but especially to overcome at the end of the 1260 years. It is true that I have said to you in past sermons that the "earth" of chapter 12, verse 13 refers to the realm of the visible church; and the "sea" of chapter 13, verse 1, refers the realm of the political and civil powers of the 10 kingdoms of the beast; that is the political commotions instigated by the Antichristian powers which affect the 10 major countries which formed out of the old Roman Empire. But here in verse 8 when "the earth" is mentioned, I do not believe that it is referring simply to the visible church. The reason that I believe that it means something different here is because it says, "all those who dwell on the earth will worship him." (that is; the beast). It does not make sense if you substitute the word church in the place of the word "the earth". "All those who dwell on the church" does not make sense. No, "all those who dwell on the earth" are all those during this 3rd time period of the history of the Church who shall worship the beast in one form or another. Their names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life. In the time of the 1260 years when the Antichristian powers have had sway over the visible church in the whole world, there has been a false gospel being put preached. There has been a false authority which has taken the place of Christ directly ruling over His church through His word and by His Spirit. Nevertheless, it is also true that it is during the 1260 years that the gospel has gone to all the nations of the world, and many of the tribes and tongues of the world. People have been and are being saved from every tribe, tongue, and nation. During this whole 3rd time period, the period which we are still living in, there has been a great need for the true Church of Jesus Christ to exercise faith and patience in relation to her conquering in her witness. The truth of the gospel and the truth of God's precious and holy word is not going forward in the way that all of His dear saints would like to see it go forward. But the time is coming when it will.

There is a time coming when the Christ's church shall reign upon the earth, when it will preach the gospel with greater success, and when holiness shall prevail in a much greater sense than it does now. It is the Millennium of Revelation 20. This is evidenced in many places of Scripture such as Psalm 72 and Psalm 102. But that time is not yet, and so we who preach, must preach faith and patience while these Antichristian powers go about to do their worst at Satan's instigation. How will

faith and patience be built into the lives of God's dear people when the Antichristian forces are doing their worst and appear to be triumphing for a time? I believe faith and patience can be built in each and every believer in Jesus Christ if they will remember 3 important truths. If they remember these truths, they will be sustained and encouraged in their relationship with their dear Savior through all their trials all the way through their life until death. And these truths which will enable them to bear a faithful and true witness to a watching world even as the Lord Jesus did in all of His sufferings.

1st - There are those people who make a bad choice whose names will not be in the Lamb's Book of life. (Verse 8a)

"All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of life of the Lamb...." When I say that there are those people who make a bad choice, I mean all those people who choose to worship God in some other way than through Jesus Christ our Lord and the definition of worship which is given to us in His word the Bible. This is "all those who dwell on the earth" whether they profess to be Christians or whether they are heathens who have never heard of Him. They make a bad choice when they choose to worship God in any other way than the way that He has appointed. The way that is most often chosen is the way of Cain, who chose his own way of worship and tried to force it upon God and his brother. Turn with me to Genesis 4. "Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, 'I have acquired a man from the Lord.'" "Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel." "Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground." "And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord." "Abel also brought of the first-born of his flock and of their fat." "And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering." "And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell." Cain brought his offering to the Lord. (I take this to be his act of worship), and his offering was not regarded; not accepted. This was because it was of his own making and devising as to what should be acceptable to the Lord; the fruit of his own labors; his own religious works. Abel brought the first-born of his flock and their fat; which was a living sacrifice, something that God had given life to in the first place and then he tended it and gave it back to God. This is the true pattern of all true Christianity and worship in the Bible. Salvation is not of our own religious conceptions, nor of works. It is not the "labor of my hands which fulfill Thy law's demands." It is Christ, the living sacrifice, who was given for us by God to the death of the cross. It is through this living sacrifice that we worship Almighty God in an acceptable way.

But notice that Cain was angry in verse 5, and this anger eventually led him to kill his brother Abel. His bad choice in worship led him to kill the one who was worshipping God acceptably. 1 John 3: 11 says, "For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother." "And why did he murder him?" "Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous." "Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you." "we know that we have passed from death to life,

because we love the brethren." "He who does not love his brother abides in death." "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him." His name is not written in the Book of life. Indeed if he is an unrepentant sinner his name shall be blotted out of God's book of all the living; those who looking at it from the standpoint of men, would like to think themselves to have the salvation of God, but they really do not. That is what we are looking at with those who worship the beast. They think that they are in the God's book of life, but really He will blot them out because of their sins. You see this is two places of Scripture. The first is Exodus 32: 31 where Moses, who is interceding for the sinful children of Israel after they made the golden calf says, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and made for themselves a god of gold!" "Yet now, if You will forgive their sin--but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written." "And the Lord said to Moses, 'Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.'" And the other place is Psalm 69, verse 26, where David speaking prophetically of Christ in verses 1-21; His sufferings on the cross for all of His people, those who believe in Him for salvation; now turns and speaks of the judgments which should come upon those put him to death and despise the gospel of His grace, "For they persecute the ones You have struck, and talk of the grief of those You have wounded, add iniquity to their iniquity, and let them not come into Your righteousness." "Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous." There are 2 other verses which we need to complete our understanding of this Book of the Lamb. The first is in Revelation 17: 8. Names not being written in the Lamb's book of life are those who reject God's way of salvation in Christ and worship according to their own will. This false worship, wherever it is enforced by political power is the beast rising out of the sea. The Papacy encourages this by encouraging persecution or propaganda to suppress the truth of God in unrighteousness. It is the most prominent manifestation of this in the history of the world. "The Beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition." "And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, who names are not written in the Book of life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is." And then looking over at Revelation 22: 18 and 19, we see the well deserved punishment of those who add not only to the book of Revelation, but also to the written word of God itself, taken as a whole; it says, "For I testify to everyone who hears the words the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." It is a person's sin which will bring him to lose his soul, to lose his name, having it blotted out of the Book of Life of all the living now. But they never were written in the Lamb's book of life. It is the faith and patience of the saints to pray for, and witness to, all those who are currently opposing and resisting the gospel, and to bear witness to them of the true gospel of salvation which is found in Jesus Christ. It is the duty of all true Christians to worship God through Jesus Christ

and to define that worship by the plain and simple truths of the Bible; not a worship that they, or others, make up.

But 2ndly - The saints who are tried and persecuted should remember that their names are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Verse 8)

"All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Saints who are persecuted for their faith, and who are surrounded by people uttering the false propaganda and lies of Antichristian doctrine, should remember this truth of the Book of life and be comforted. They should remember the doctrines of Election and Predestination, and they should be comforted by all of the doctrines of grace which flow from them. They should especially remember the Lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world; the Lamb who would bring grace to sinners by His death. In this they should greatly rejoice. The Lamb being spoken of is none other than our Lord Jesus Christ. He was the lamb spoken of John when he was baptizing in Bethabara beyond the Jordan. He saw Jesus coming toward him and he said, "Behold!" "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" He is the Lamb of God whom the Ethiopian Eunuch was reading about in the prophet Isaiah, reading in his chariot, and not understand until the Spirit told Philip to "go up and join this chariot". And when he did, the Eunuch showed him the passage of Scripture in Isaiah 53 where it says, "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He opened not His mouth." The Eunuch asked Philip, "of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" "Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him." Jesus suffered as a sheep who was led to the slaughter so that all who believe in Him should receive the gift of eternal life. But the name of this man who believed in Jesus that day was written in the Book of life long before he ever believed. His name was not written down in the Scripture for us to remember, but it was written down in the Book of life before time began so that our God and our Christ will most certainly remember. And your name, if you believe in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross, was written long before you ever believed as well. It was written down in His book before, in eternity past, as a part of God's purposed plan to save a certain number from the fall and the horrible effects of sin which came to all men because of Adam's sin. One of the greatest benefits from God's having revealed to His people the doctrines of Predestination and Election is that it is meant to be a comfort and encouragement to God's persecuted people. This is why so many of the Apostolic letters start out with these doctrines. In 1 Peter 1, Peter starts off his letter by saying, "To the Pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied." "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by

the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." This "last time" is the whole time of the Church age from the beginning at Christ's resurrection and ascension continuing down to the end when He shall appear and return to judge the world. Christ's people are "kept by the power of God through faith." The power of God is great toward His people to keep them from such discouragement in their own obedience to his word, that they will apostatize and fall away from it. Through this faith in Christ they shall be most certainly and most definitely be sustained though all their trials even though they are surrounded by thousands and ten thousands of enemies to the gospel; enemies who worship the beast. But the indication of the verse itself shows that it is God's required response that each of His saints believe this, as well. What God requires He will provide in terms of grace to His people personally in their hearts and minds. Verse 6 says, "In this you greatly rejoice...." In what? In the knowledge that what God had purposed concerning you, in predestination and election will most certainly be fulfilled in you if you have been born again. "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having seen you love." "Though you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory." In these suffering and trials a saint comes to know that His name is written in the Lamb's book of Life. "If we died with Him, we shall also live with Him." "If we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him." "If we deny Him, He also will deny us." "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. (2 Timothy 2: 11-13)

Being born again gives you strength in your witness. It gives you power in declaring Christ to be your Savior. It gives you power, but you must exercise that power and confess your Christ. You have been born again by the incorruptible seed of the word of God. The word of God "lives and abides forever" and it is now living and abiding in your heart. Being born again is more than making a profession of faith. Being born again is God making you a partaker of the Divine nature through the work of Spirit based upon Christ's purchase of you at the cross and His being raised from the dead on the third day. The difference between a profession and a confession of Christ is right here. Those who have a confessing faith will be able to make a profession of faith and have it stick. They have come to know the power of God to turn them from sin and false notions of what it means to know Him. They have come to know the power of Christ to sustain them in their trials. It is the resurrection power of Christ which is sustaining them and nourishing their faith so that it will be genuine. If you do not see this in your life, will you not cry out to Christ for it?

And then 3rdly- Let all of God's saints remember that there will be a just retribution of God which will come against all those who persecute them for their faith and their witness.

(Verse 10)

"He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword." "Here is the patience and the faith of the saints." The patience and the faith of the saints is that there are certain things which they must endure in this life to see that the witness of God in His worship and His word, and the witness of His salvation in Jesus Christ which is all of free grace, established by their life and if need be, their death. The persons who make up the beast rising up out of the sea are those political rulers and those who support the Pope, people who will do their dirty work for them. They lead people into the bondage and captivity of false worship by force through the edicts of human government. They also will be led into the final captivity of hell, and sometimes even in this life they will come to know the implications of what their leading others into captivity and bondage have brought them to. Their bad choices of rejection of the true gospel and the perversion of the word of God will bring them to a sad and painful end both in this life and the next. "The sword" in this verse is the emblem of punishment. The magistrate in Romans 13, it says there, "does not bear the sword for nothing". If leaders and rulers, and those who follow them will persecute and put to death Christians in this life; if they will promote all the false propaganda of the Antichristian Ecclesiastical edicts of the Popes and then punish those who refuse to submit to them, then they themselves will be punished by God. All good governments will promote the truth of God's word and worship. It is the faith and the patience of the saints, faithfully bearing witness to the truth, which will bring this to pass in God's good time.