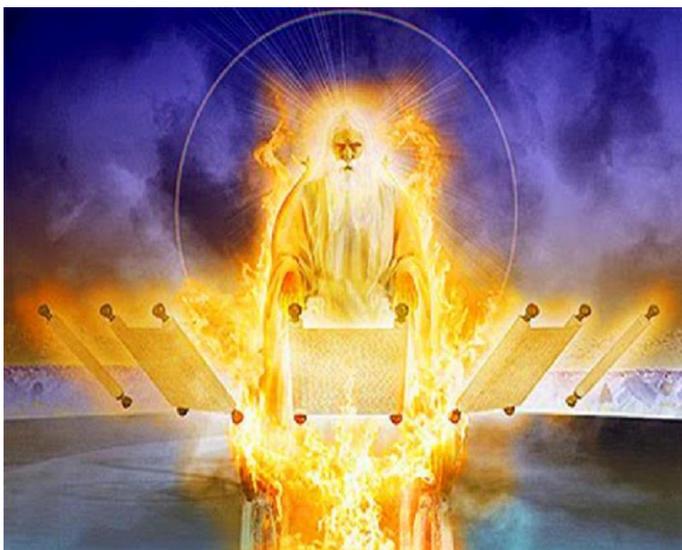


Daniel and the Apocalypse: What is Unveiled for the Church?



Session Schedule

Sunday, August 21, 2022 8:45 AM	Session 1: Overview
Sunday, August 28, 2022	Session 2: Apocalyptic Mass
Sunday, Sept. 4, 2022	Session 3: Concordance of Vision
Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022	Session 4: Persecution and Reward
Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022	Session 5: Concordance of Thrones
Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022	Session 6: Creatures and Scrolls
Sunday, October 2, 2022	Session 7: Idolatry and Majesty
Sunday, October 9, 2022	Session 8: The Dragon and War
Sunday, October 16, 2022	Session 9: Final Reflections



Daniel and the Apocalypse: What is Unveiled for the Church?

Session 1: Overview Sunday, August 21, 2022 8:45 AM

The Apocalypse (The Book of Revelation) and Daniel were each written during a time of persecution: Daniel under the Babylonians (530 BC) and Revelation under the persecution by the Roman Empire in the apostolic age.

Daniel, an exile in Babylon, never lost his Jewish identity (Daniel 2:18-19, 27, 30, 47; 4:9). In the Apocalypse, John is reminded that the Church has both a heavenly identity and an earthly reality. When John encounters Jesus in the Apocalypse, he falls down and worships as he recognizes his unworthiness (Rev 1:17, 4:8, 15:3-4). The **lesson** for us is to raise our awareness of our dignity as children of God - first and foremost - and to recognize that dignity in others.

In the Kingdom of God, Jesus Christ is our King. He anointed Simon Peter as His first Steward, the first Pope, intending that other popes should succeed him. Jesus' Church, the Catholic Church, was meant for all people of all time, not just for one generation. We are truly free when we love Jesus and the Church He founded; when we encounter God through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition; when we learn about the doctrines of the Catholic Church - *why* we believe *what* we believe. From love of God, encounters with Him, and knowledge of Church doctrines, we are truly free to choose the good. We are not enslaved by our passions and sins.

Reflections

- Have I been persecuted? How did I respond?
- Have I persecuted others? Have I failed to recognize their inherent dignity?
- How do I identify myself? Which is my most defining identification?
- What is the distinction between freedom and license?
- How can I encounter God? Do I need to change something in my life to make time for Him?

Seven Spiritual Figures in the Apocalypse:

Woman, 12:1-17 – Mary, the Mother of God and our Heavenly mother; the Queen Mother of Heaven and Earth; the new Eve. Also, the faithful Israel who cries out for the Messiah; and the Church, attacked by Satan. **Daniel 13** tells the tale of Susanna, the beautiful wife of a rich wise man who is falsely accused (13:42-43); she puts her trust in God, refuses the demands of the wicked (13:22-23, 35), and is saved from death by the outcry of a young man, Daniel, whose spirit had been stirred up by the Holy Spirit (13:45).

Dragon, 12:3 – the “ancient serpent” of the Fall, who will be crushed by the new Eve. His name in Hebrew is Satan, meaning “the adversary.” His name in Greek is the Devil, meaning “slanderer.” Jesus called him “the father of lies.” (Jn 8:44) **Daniel 7:7. Daniel chapter 14** tells the story of an idol, Bel, and the dragon, both overcome by Daniel.

Male child, 12:5 – both the birth and the Resurrection of Jesus

Michael, 12:7 – the Archangel, the Heavenly warrior who cast Satan out of Heaven and who protects the believers

Sea Beast, 13:1 – symbol of evil called Leviathan by Isaiah (27:1); a sea monster with multiple heads (Psalm 74:14)

Land Beast, 13:11 Beasts are a symbol of sinful humanity. Adam was created on the sixth day, the same day as the beasts. The number of the Beast is triple 6. The seventh day is the holy day of the Lord’s rest. Adam and Eve were to “be holy, as the Heavenly Father is holy,” that is, they should have sought to leave the beastliness of the sixth day and move into closer conformity to the Lord on the seventh day. We are all called to the holiness of the seventh day.

The Lamb, 14:1

Reflections

- Do I recognize the spiritual significance of these seven figures?
- Does understanding the spiritual significance of these figures enhance my faith?
- Do I have any personal interpretation of these seven figures?

Consider how the Catholic Church interprets Sacred Scripture:

- (1) **The content and unity of Scripture** – because God’s Word tells a coherent narrative of His love for us throughout history and on until the end of the world.
- (2) **The Church’s living Tradition** – Jesus established a Church, whose Magisterium has authority from Him to interpret Scripture, to define doctrines and dogmas, and to guide the faithful.
- (3) **The analogy of Faith** – The Word of God encourages faith in the One True God and guides us in all things to Him.
- (4) **The Senses of Scripture** – because the Bible is a library of 73 divinely-inspired books, there are multiple layers of meaning in the Word and several genres of literature in the one Bible.
 - a. **Literal Sense** – the plain meaning of the words; in the historical accounts and in the words of our Savior, we take the literal meaning. St. Thomas Aquinas advises us to look first to the literal sense of Scripture.
 - b. **Spiritual Senses** – because the Bible is divinely inspired, God speaks to us on multiple levels to express the deeper meaning of the words:
 - i. **Allegorical** – prefiguring Christ; Christ is the true Temple
 - ii. **Moral** – how we are to conform ourselves to Christ; how He fulfills what has been prophesied; we are the Temple of the Holy Spirit; the Church is the new Temple.
 - iii. **Eschatological or anagogical** – Christ brings fulfillment in His Church in His Heavenly Temple at the end of time.

Some examples of these spiritual senses of Scripture can be seen in this brief table comparing symbols in Daniel and the Apocalypse.

Apocalyptic Beast	Lamb from the Apocalypse
Rev 13:2 The first beast receives authority from the dragon	Rev 5:7, 12 The Lamb receives authority from God
Rev 13:7 The beast rules over all	Rev 5:9 The Lamb wields ultimate authority over all
Rev 13:4 Men worshipped the beast	Rev 5:14 The Lamb is worshipped
Rev 13:3, 12, 14 The beast is mortally wounded but survives	Rev 5:6 The Lamb “appeared to have been slain”
Rev 13:16 The followers of the beast bear his mark on their foreheads	Rev 7:2 Those who follow the Lamb are marked on their foreheads
Lesson: Lucifer confers power on those who worship him, but he can never be anything but a demonic counterfeit, a pale, blasphemous imitation, of God.	

Reflections

- **Will I approach the interpretation of Scripture differently now? How so?**

Daniel and the Apocalypse: What is Unveiled for the Church?

Session 2: Apocalyptic Mass August 28, 2022 8:45 AM

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, as Cardinal Ratzinger, wrote that the Apocalypse is the “book of the Heavenly liturgy.” Why is this important? The Apocalypse reveals right worship and points to our Heavenly destiny. We can learn how to live now so as to live with Him forever.

Elements of the Mass which we see in the Apocalypse:

Sunday worship	Rev 1:10	I was taken up on the Lord's Day
	Rev 1:3	Those who read and those who hear
Catholicity/universality	Rev 7:9	A great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue.
Sign of the Cross/Tau	Rev 7:3	Seal on the foreheads of the servants of God
	Rev 14:1	Who had His Name and His Father's Name written on their foreheads
	Rev 22:4	His Name will be on their foreheads
Amen	Rev 19:4	Saying, “Amen, Alleluia!”
	Rev 22:20	Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!
An altar	Rev 8:3-4	Another angel came and stood at the altar
	Rev 11:1	Measure the Temple of God and the altar
	14:18	Another angel came from the altar
A high priest	Rev 1:13	One like a son of man with an ankle-length robe and a gold sash
Celibate Priests	Rev 14:4	These are they who were not defiled with women; they are virgins
Vestments	Rev 1:13 (see above), 6:11	Each one was given a white robe
	Rev 15:6	They were dressed in clean white linen with a gold sash around their chests

Priesthood of the faithful	Rev 1:6	Made us into a kingdom, priests for His God
	Rev 20:6	They will be priests of God and of Christ
Lampstands/Menorah/Candle s	Rev 1:12	I saw seven golden lampstands
	At Mass	Six candles in the sanctuary; Jesus is the seventh candle, representing completion
Penitence/Confiteor	Rev chapters 2 and 3	
The Gloria	Rev 15:3-4	Great and wonderful are Your works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are Your ways, o King of the nations. Who will not fear you, Lord, or glorify Your Name? For You alone are holy. All the nations shall come and worship before You.'
Incense	Rev 5:8	Gold bowls filled with incense
	8:3-4	Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a gold censer. He was given a great quantity of incense to offer...the smoke of the incense...went up before God.
The book/scroll	Rev 5:1	I saw a scroll...it had writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals.
Scripture reading	Rev chapters 2, 3, and 5; 8:2-11	
Antiphons, chants	Rev 4:8-11; 5:9-14; 7:10-12; 18:1-8	
Alleluia	Rev 19:1, 3, 4, 6	A great multitude in Heaven saying, "Alleluia!" They said a second time, "Alleluia!" Saying, "Amen, Alleluia!" They said, "Alleluia!"
Intercession of angels and saints	Rev 5:8	Gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones
	Rev 6:9	I saw the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the witness they bore to the Word of God.
	Rev 8:3-4	The prayers of all the holy ones...the prayers went up before God.

Chalices	Rev chapter 16	
Holy, Holy, Holy/The Sanctus	Rev 4:8	Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty
The Lamb of God	Throughout the Apocalypse	
The Eucharistic Host	Rev 2:17	I shall give the hidden manna A white stone, bdellium, fell from Heaven with the manna. This stone was also found in the Garden of Eden (GN 2:12). Lesson: Manna foreshadows the Eucharist, which reverses the Original Sin in Eden. Just as sin and death came into the world by one man, so redemption came into the world by One.
Marriage supper of the Lamb	Rev 19:9, 17	Blessed are those who are called to the wedding feast of the Lamb...gather for God's great feast.
The prominence of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Rev 12:1-6	(Passage of the woman and the dragon)
	Rev 12:13-17	(Pursued into the desert)
Devotion to St. Michael the Archangel	Rev 12:7	Michael and his angels battled
Silent contemplation	Rev 8:1	There was silence in Heaven for about half an hour

Reflections

- Will I appreciate the rich symbolism in our Mass?
- Will I reflect upon the Heavenly liturgy as I participate in our parish Mass?
- Was I surprised at anything from this week's session?

Daniel and the Apocalypse: What is Unveiled for the Church?

Session 3: Concordance of Vision Sept. 4, 2022 8:45 AM

Revelation 1:1, 1:7, 1:13 John sees “what must take place;” “He is coming with the clouds” “Stood one like a *Son of Man*, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across His chest.”

Daniel 2:28, 7:13, 10:5 Nebuchadnezzar sees “what will be;” “Behold, with the clouds of Heaven there came one like a *Son of Man*.” “Behold, a man clothed in linen, whose loins were belted with gold.”



Revelation 1:12-17, 2:18, 14:14, 19:12 “His head and His hair were white as white wool, white as snow; His eyes were like a flame of fire; His feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace; and His voice was like the sound of many waters. In His right hand He held *seven stars*. From His mouth issued a *sharp two-edged sword*.” “The Son of God, who has *eyes like a flame of fire* and whose feet are like burnished bronze.” “Then I looked and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud, one like a *Son of Man* with a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.” “His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a Name inscribed which no one knows but Himself.”

Daniel 7:9-11, 7:13-14, 10:5-6, 12:3, 10:1 “As I looked, thrones were placed and One that was Ancient of Days took His seat; His clothing was white as snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool; His throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came forth from before Him.” “I saw in the night visions and behold, with the clouds of Heaven there came one like a *Son of Man*. Behold, a man clothed in linen, whose loins were belted with gold. His body was like *beryl*; His face like the appearance of lightning, His *eyes like flaming torches*, His arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of His words like the noise of a multitude.” “The saints will shine like many *stars*.” “The revelation was certain: a great *war*...”



Notes: The “*Son of Man*” prophesies that the Messiah will come as a Man not born of human seed. Daniel refers to the Son of Man also as the “stone cut by no human hand.” Ancient Jewish traditions sees Daniel’s “Son of Man” as the Messiah.

Seven Stars Stars were on the coins minted by the Roman Emperors to show their sovereignty. Jesus holding seven stars indicates that He is the King of kings; the fullness or completion of Kingship. His saints share in God’s glory; therefore, they shine like *stars*.

Sharp two-edged sword and war Liturgy is war; prayer is more powerful than arms. Just as Joshua at Jericho conquered through prayer, obedience to God, and liturgy, we, too, can conquer through those same means.



Eyes like a flame of fire indicate that Jesus sees into our hearts; His gaze pierces through all of our excuses, justifications, and lies. If your good deeds are performed to be seen by others, but your goodness does not emanate from a pure heart, you will be judged and slain by the sharp sword.

Beryl is a translucent gold gemstone.



Revelation 1:17, 11:3 “When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead.”

“And I will grant my *two witnesses* power to prophesy for *one thousand two hundred and sixty days*, clothed in *sackcloth*.”

Daniel 10:9, 9:3 “I fell on my face in a deep sleep with my face to the ground.” “Then I turned my face to the Lord God, *seeking Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting and sackcloth and ashes*.”



Notes: The “*two witnesses*” are the Law and the Prophets; the two Testaments of the Bible; Jesus’ two commandments to love God and our neighbor. Witnesses can be: the Apostles, as eyewitnesses to Jesus; a “messenger,” anyone who proclaims the true Gospel; a martyr who follows in Jesus’s footsteps, losing their life to gain it.

One thousand two hundred and sixty days is 3 ½ years, or 42 months.

Sackcloth is a coarse penitential garment made of goat hair.

Prayer, supplication, fasting, sackcloth, and ashes Contrition and repentance are necessary for our spiritual life. We must detach ourselves from undue attachments to people, things, and sins. We must love nothing and no one as well as we love God.

Reflections

- What is your reaction to these depictions of Jesus and God the Father?
- Consider these gifts of the Holy Spirit in relation to this part of the Apocalypse:
 - Knowledge – which directs us to contemplation, or thoughtful reflection, of the mystery of God and the mysteries of the Catholic Faith.
 - Understanding – which stimulates us to know ourselves better, especially in relation to our Creator.
 - Counsel – which informs our consciences so that we see the right path in our moral lives
 - Piety – which is a deep reverence for the Holy Trinity.
 - Fear of the Lord – or “wonder and awe” – infuses us with an honest assessment of our littleness in view of God’s majesty. We are prompted to gratitude and great love for this omnipotent God who loves us.

Daniel and the Apocalypse: What is Unveiled for the Church?

Session 4: Concordance of Persecution and Reward Sept. 11, 2022

Revelation 2:10 “For *ten days*, you will have tribulation.”

Daniel 1:12 “Test your servants for *ten days*...”

Notes: The “*ten days*” indicate that the days of our tribulation are short compared with the endless ages of beatitude in Heaven, the reward which awaits those who remain true during the time of “testing” or “tribulation.”

Revelation 3:4, 5:1, 7:9-10, 7:14 “People who have not soiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white.” “Myriads and myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: ‘Worthy is the Lamb.’” “A great multitude which no man could number, clothed in white robes. A thousand thousands served Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.” “These are they who have come out of the great *tribulation*; they have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb.”



Daniel 11:35, 12:1, 10 “Refine and cleanse them and to make them white.” “There shall be a time of *trouble* such as never has been since there was a nation...your people shall be delivered, every one whose name shall be found written in the book.” “Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined.”

Notes: The “*white garments*” connote faithfulness to Christ. From an active sacramental life, good deeds will flow. The grace from the sacraments help us to keep our garments unsoiled.

Tribulation and trouble We ought to welcome trials and suffering, for it is through these that we learn to rely fully on God. We understand Jesus’ Passion and empathize with Him. When we unite our sufferings to His, we are consecrated in the Truth, grow closer to Christ, and conform ourselves to His Will and His Likeness.

Growth in the spiritual life takes effort; we cannot be lukewarm, complacent, or indifferent. Love does not hold back; to be “perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect” is to love like Jesus – totally and selflessly. This love bears great fruit. We cannot compromise our faith; we must witness to Jesus Christ even when it is counter to the prevailing culture. We must not be ashamed of Him. Holding fast to our faith is the way to conquer our sinful inclinations.

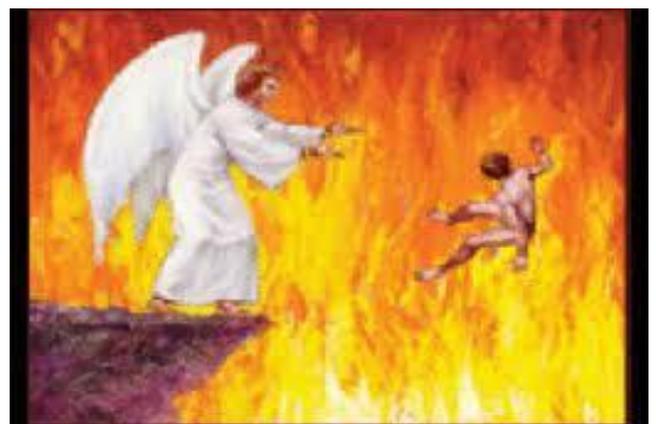
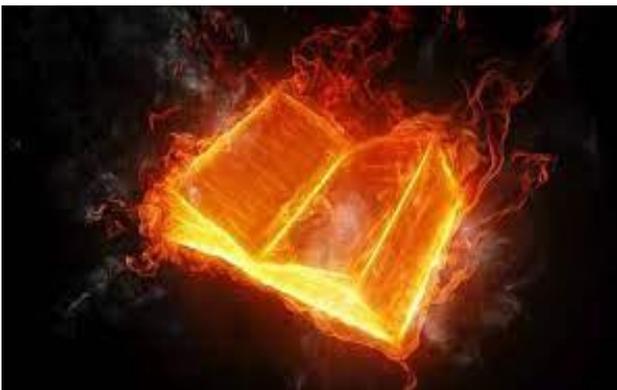
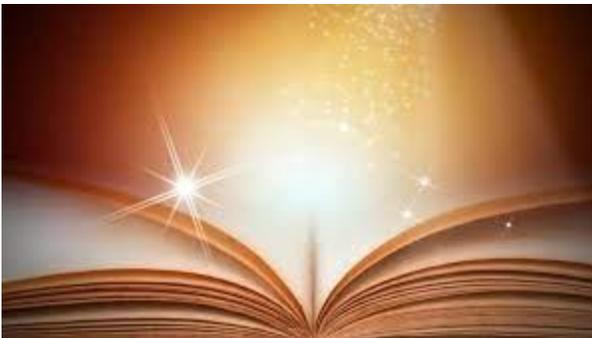
Revelation 3:5, 20:12, 20:15 “I will not blot his name out of the book of life.” “And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, by what they had done.” “And if anyone’s name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the Lake of Fire.”

Daniel 12:1-2 “At that time, your people shall be delivered, every one whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the Earth shall awake, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

Notes: *The book of life* – those who endure persecution and hold fast to the Faith shall receive the reward of life in Heaven.

Reflections

- Can you see your tribulations as a small sacrifice compared with the glory of an eternity in Heaven?
- Do you believe that you will be able to endure persecution and remain faithful to God so as to receive the reward of life in Heaven?



Daniel and the Apocalypse: What is Unveiled for the Church?

Session 5: Concordance of Thrones Sept. 18, 2022

Revelation 4:2-3, 5 “A throne was there in Heaven, and on that throne sat One whose appearance sparkled like *jasper and carnelian*. Around the throne was a halo as brilliant as an *emerald*.” From the throne came flashes of *lightning*, rumblings and peals of *thunder*. *Seven flaming torches* burned in front of the throne.”



Daniel 7:9-10 “As I watched, thrones were set up...And the Ancient of Days took His throne. His clothing was white as snow, and the hair on His head like pure wool. His throne was *flames of fire*, with wheels of burning fire. A river of fire surged forth, flowing from where He sat.”

Notes *Jasper and carnelian* were stones in the Garden of Eden and were stones worn by the High Priest. Thus the saga of salvation history from Eden through the Chosen People and on to Eternity is shown in its unbroken continuity.

Lightning and thunder accompany theophanies – manifestations of God

Flames of fire Fire is one of the four elements. It is necessary for

survival, giving light and heart and keeping wild animals at bay. It can also be destructive. In these ways, it images God: necessary for survival, giving much, but able to destroy whenever necessary.

Seven flaming torches are seen at Traditional Latin Masses or more reverent Novus Ordo Masses: six



candles are in the sanctuary, with Jesus Himself as the seventh “flaming torch” – seven, the number of completion and fullness.

Revelation 4:6 “In front of the throne was something that resembled a *sea* of glass like crystal.”

Daniel 7:2-3 “The four winds of Heaven stirred up the great *sea*.”

Notes *Sea* – Solomon’s Temple had several basins for the purification of priests before they offered the sacrifice and a “bronze sea” in front of the Holy of Holies.



The *four winds of Heaven* recall Genesis 2: “A mighty wind sweeping over the waters.”

Revelation 5:8, 11 “The four living creatures and the elders fell down before the Lamb...I looked again and heard the voices of many angels who surrounded the throne and the living creatures and the elders. They were countless in number; myriads and myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: ‘Worthy is the Lamb.’”

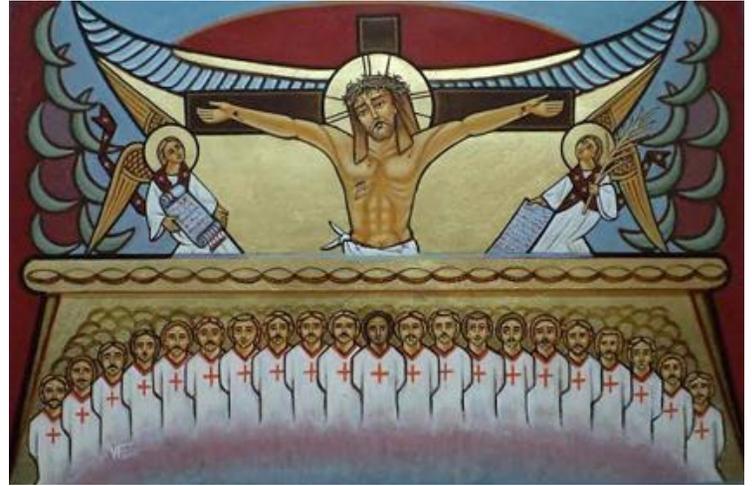
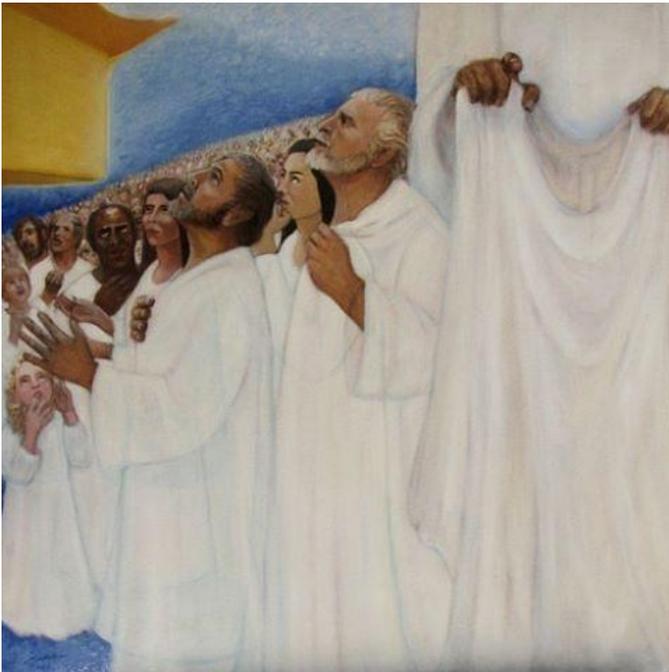


Daniel 7:10 “A thousand thousands served Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.”

Revelation 5:12-13 “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing. Then I heard every creature in Heaven and on Earth and under the Earth and in the Sea, everything in the universe cry out: ‘To the One Who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever.’”

Daniel 7:13-14, 27 “I saw coming with the clouds of Heaven One like a Son of Man. When He reached the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him, He received dominion, splendor, and kingship; all nations, peoples, and tongues shall serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away; His kingship, one that shall never be destroyed.” “Then kingship and dominion and majesty of all the kingdoms under the Heavens shall be given *to the people of the holy ones of the Most High*, whose kingship shall be an everlasting kingship, whom all dominions shall serve and obey.”

Notes: *To the people of the holy ones of the Most High* – Jesus receives the Kingdom and gives it to the saints, just as He gives Himself to us in the Mass, through Sacred Scripture and Tradition, and in the sacraments. We share in His divine life.



Reflections

- Do you see yourself sharing in God's Divine life now? How so?
- Did you know that we are destined to both (a) love and worship God in Heaven; and also (b) exercise lordship over angels? Daniel and the Apocalypse tell us this as well as St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians 1:63 – "Do you not know that we will judge angels?"

Daniel and the Apocalypse: What is Unveiled for the Church?

Session 6: Concordance of Creatures and Scrolls Sept. 25, 2022

Revelation 4:6-8 “There were four living creatures *covered with eyes front and back*. The first creature resembled a lion; the second was like a calf; the third had a face like that of a human being, and the fourth looked like an eagle in flight. The four living creatures, each of them with six wings, were covered with eyes inside and out. Day and night they do not stop exclaiming: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, Who was, and Who is, and Who is to come.’”

Daniel 7:3-8 “...from which emerged four immense beasts, each different from the other. The first was like a lion, but with eagles’ wings...it was raised from the ground to stand on two legs like a human being and was given a human mind. The second beast was like a bear; it was raised up on one side, and among the teeth in its mouth were three tusks. It was given the order: ‘Arise, devour much flesh.’ After this, I looked and saw another beast, like a leopard; on its back were four wings like those of a bird, and it had four heads. To this beast dominion was given...I saw a fourth beast, terrifying, horrible, and of extraordinary strength. It had great iron teeth with which it devoured and crushed, and it trampled with its feet what was left. It differed from the beasts which had preceded it. It had ten horns...suddenly, another, a little horn, sprung out in their midst, and three of the previous horns were torn away to make room for it. This horn had eyes like human eyes and a mouth that spoke arrogantly.”

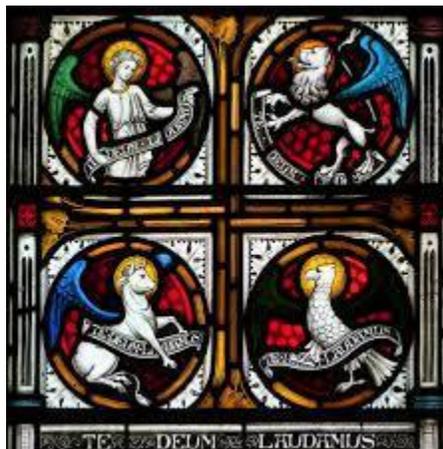
Notes: *Covered with eyes front and back* “All seeing.” These four creatures prefigure the four evangelists, who saw clearly through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit:

Lion – Gospel of Mark which begins with John the Baptist, a voice crying out in the desert (wilderness), the domain of wild beasts, including lions.

Calf – Gospel of Luke begins with Zechariah as his priestly duty offering the sacrifice of incense in the Temple

Man – Gospel of Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus

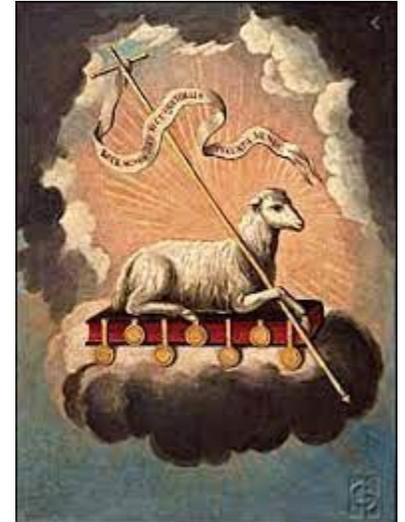
Eagle – Gospel of John which contains the highest Christological content turning our hearts heavenward.





Revelation 5:1-7, 9 “A scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a mighty angel who proclaimed in a loud voice: ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?’ But no one in Heaven or on Earth was found worthy to open the scroll or to examine it. *I shed many tears* because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to examine it.

Judah, the Root of David has triumphed, enabling Him to open the scroll with its seven seals.’ Then I saw standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and the elders, a Lamb that seemed to have been slain. He had *seven horns and seven eyes.*”
“They sang a new hymn: ‘Worthy are You to receive the scroll and to break open its seals, for You were slain and with Your Blood You purchased for God those from every tribe and tongue, people and nation.’”



One of the elders said to me: ‘Do not weep. The Lion of the Tribe of

Daniel 7:10, 15-16, 8:26 “The court was convened and the books were opened.” “Because of this *my spirit was anguished* and I, Daniel, was terrified by my visions. I approached one of those present and asked him the truth of all this; in answer, *he made known to me its meaning.*”

Notes: Anguished spirit and the shedding of tears indicate the prophet’s heartfelt devotion to God and his humility in the Presence of the Most High. His desire is to come to know the Word of God more intimately, and is anguished when the scroll remains unintelligible.

One of the elders said to me; he made known to me its meaning Both Daniel and John are comforted and given interpretation of the vision.

Seven horns and seven eyes Horns are a symbol of power and eyes symbolize knowledge, so this phrase succinctly captures two of the attributes of God: omnipotence and omniscience.

Revelation 6:9-11, 22:11 “When He opened the Fifth Seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God and for the witness they had borne; they cried out with a loud voice: ‘O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before You will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell upon the Earth?’ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren should be complete, who were to be



Revelation 6:10
They called out in a loud voice,
“How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true,
until you judge the inhabitants of the earth
and avenge our blood?”

killed as they themselves had been.” “Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.”

Daniel 12:10 “Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined; but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but those who are wise shall understand.”

Revelation 6:17 “For the great day of wrath has come, and who can *stand* before it?”

Daniel 12:13 “*Stand* in your allotted place at the end of days.”

Notes: *Standing* is a sign of vindication on the Day of Judgment. Angels and saints stand in Heaven.

Reflections

- Do the explanatory notes help you to understand the strange beasts?
- What is your reaction to these symbolic beasts?
- Our book of the Gospels and the wood carving on the ambo (from which the readings at Mass are proclaimed) show the symbols of the four evangelists. Does knowing the meaning behind their symbols help you to appreciate the Gospel each wrote, the style in which he wrote, and the congregation to whom he wrote?

Daniel and the Apocalypse: What is Unveiled for the Church?

Session 7: Concordance of Idolatry and Majesty Oct. 2, 2022

Revelation 9:20 “The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshipping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot either see or hear or walk.”



Daniel 5:23 “You have lifted up yourself against the Lord of Heaven; and the vessels of His house have been brought in before you; and you and your lords, your wives, your concubines have drunk wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.”



Notes: Idolatry, the sin against the First Commandment, is a serious sin. Idolatry can include using occult practices which seek to gain knowledge or control using demonic forces, whether consciously or unconsciously. Deliberate summoning of a demon is a heinous sin.



Revelation 10:5-6 “And the angel whom I saw standing on Sea and Land lifted up his right hand to Heaven and swore by Him who lives forever and ever.”

Daniel 12:7 “The man clothed in linen, who was above the water of the stream, raised his right hand and his left hand toward Heaven; and I heard him swear by Him who lives forever that it would be for *a time, two times, and half a time*; and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end, all these things would be accomplished.”

Revelation 11:2 “Do not measure the court outside the Temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample over the holy city for *forty-two months*.”

Daniel 7:25, 9:27 “He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for *a time, two times, and half a time*.” “And He shall make a *strong covenant* with many for one week; and for half of the week, He shall cause *sacrifice and offering to cease*; and upon the *wing of abominations* shall come One who makes desolate, until the decreed end is *poured out on the desolator*.”

Notes: A “*time*” is probably a year, so 3 1/2 years, corresponding to the forty-two months. The Jewish revolt that sparked the Roman conquest of Jerusalem lasted about 3 ½ years, from February, AD 67 to September, AD 70. It also looks back to the Syrian desecration of Jerusalem from 167 BC to 164 BC.

Strong covenant is the New Covenant ratified by Jesus.

Sacrifice and offering ceased with the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70; its purpose and efficacy ceased in truth with the Paschal Mystery, attested to with the tearing of the veil in the Temple.

Wing of abominations can also be interpreted as “extremity” – Josephus attests to the devastation of Jerusalem at the time of the revolt and its fall.

Poured out on the desolator is the judgment upon those who persecute Christians; this is the burning of the fourth beast.



Revelation 10:7, 11:15, 15:6, 17:14, 19:16

“In the days of that trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the ‘mystery of God,’ as He announced to His servants, the prophets, should be fulfilled.” “Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet and there were loud voices in Heaven saying, ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.’” “Out

of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues, robed in pure bright linen and with golden sashes across their chests.” “They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with Him are called and chosen and faithful.” “On His robe and on His thigh, He has a name inscribed: King of kings and Lord of lords.”

Daniel 2:31-37, 44-47, 7:13-14, 7:27, 10:5 “And in the days of those kings, the God of Heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what



shall be hereafter. The dream is certain and its interpretation sure. Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and did homage to Daniel and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. The king said to Daniel: "Truly your God is God of gods and Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery." "I saw in the night visions and behold, with the clouds of Heaven there came one like a *Son of Man*, and He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His kingdom, one that shall not be destroyed. You, o King, the King of kings, to whom the God of Heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory. The king said to Daniel: "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings." "And His kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole Heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them." "Behold, a man clothed in linen, whose loins were belted with gold of Uphaz."

Revelation 11:15 "Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in Heaven saying, 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.'"

Daniel 2:37-44 "You, O king, are the king of kings; to you the God of heaven has given dominion and strength, power and glory; human beings, wild beasts, and birds of the air, wherever they may dwell, he has handed over to you, making you ruler over them all; you are the head of gold. Another kingdom shall take your place, inferior to yours, then a third kingdom, of bronze, which shall rule over the whole earth. There shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron; it shall break in pieces and subdue all these others, just as iron breaks in pieces and crushes everything else. The feet and toes you saw, partly of clay and partly of iron, mean that it shall be a divided kingdom, but yet have some of the hardness of iron. As you saw the iron mixed with clay tile, and the toes partly iron and partly clay, the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. The iron mixed with clay means that they shall seal their alliances by intermarriage, but they shall not stay united, any more than iron mixes with clay. In the lifetime of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed or delivered up to another people; rather, it shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and put an end to them, and it shall stand forever."

Reflections

- In the Nicene Creed, we profess that "He (Jesus) will come again to judge the living and the dead and His Kingdom will have no end." When you profess the Creed at Mass, is this how you pictured the Second Coming? Is this how you pictured the Kingdom of Heaven?
- Will you profess the Creed differently now? Will your heart tremble in awe and wonder at the Second Coming?
- Do you have a different grasp of the spiritual warfare being waged now? Did you know that it will intensify at the end of the world?

Daniel and the Apocalypse: What is Unveiled for the Church?

Session 8: Concordance of the Dragon and War Oct. 9, 2022

Revelation 12:3 “And another sign appeared in Heaven; behold, a great red dragon, with *seven heads* and *ten horns*, and seven diadems upon his heads.”

Daniel 7:7 “After this, I saw in the night visions and behold, a *fourth beast*, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong; and it had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.”

Notes: The “heads” are a symbol of authority and power; seven is a number indicating Heaven (3) and Earth (4).

The “horns” are the symbol of strength; ten is a number of completion or fullness.

The “fourth beast” is seen as Rome. Roman Catholics are a sign that God has fulfilled the prophecy of the conversion of the fourth beast by the blood of the martyrs.

Revelation 12:10 “Now have the salvation and power and the Kingdom of God and the authority of Christ have come, for the accuser of our brother has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.”

Daniel 7:26-27 “But when the court is convened and his dominion (that of the fourth beast) is taken away to be abolished and completely destroyed, then the kingship and dominion and majesty of all the kingdoms under the heavens shall be given to the people of the holy ones of the Most High, Whose Kingship shall be an everlasting kingship, whom all dominions shall serve and obey.”

Revelation 13:7, 15 “Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.” “Cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.”

Daniel 7:21, 3:5-6 “And as I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High.” “You are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; and whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the fiery furnace.”



Revelation 16:18, 11:7, 13:7 “And there were flashes of lightning, loud noises, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as has never been seen since men were on the Earth, so great was that earthquake.” “And when they had finished their testimony, the beast that ascends from the bottomless pit will make war upon them and conquer them and kill them.” “Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.”

Daniel 12:1, 7:7, 21 “And there shall be a time of trouble, such as has never been seen since there was a nation until that time. Your people shall be delivered, every one whose name shall be found written in the Book.” “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong; and it had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet. As I looked, this horn made war with the saints, and prevailed over them.”

Revelation 20:4 “Then I saw the thrones and seated on them were those to whom judgment was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony to Jesus and for the Word of God and who had not worshipped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”



Daniel 12:7 7:9-10, 7:22, 7:27 “As I looked, thrones were placed and One that was Ancient of Days took His seat; His clothing was white as snow and the hair of His head like pure wool; His throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came forth from before Him; a thousand thousands served Him, and then thousand times ten thousand stood before Him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.” “Until the Ancient of Days came.” “And His kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole Heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them.”



Revelation 22:10 “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.”

Daniel 12:4 “Seal up the vision, for it pertains to many days hence.” “Shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end.”

Notes: Daniel is told to seal the book *until the time of the end*, whereas John is told to *not* seal the book, for the time is near.

Reflections

- In both Daniel and the Apocalypse, the beast is allowed to make war on the saints and conquer or prevail over them. Why do you think God allows this?
- At Fatima, Mary advised that in the end times, “even the clergy” would “lose the divine compass.” In this, she echoes her Son’s words in Matthew 24:24 - “False messiahs and false prophets will arise, and they will perform signs and wonders so great as to deceive, if that were possible, even the elect.”

Daniel and the Apocalypse: What is Unveiled for the Church?

Session 9: Final Reflections October 16, 2022

Reflections

- What are your take-aways from this study of the books of Daniel and the Apocalypse?
- Consider the reflections within the last eight sessions of this study. Which ones influenced you the most?
- Do you have a firmer grasp of the rich symbolism employed in both books? Do the symbols increase your faith or change the way you pray and worship?
- Has the subject matter of this study frightened you?
- Do you feel better prepared to live your life so as to face up to the prophecies of Daniel and St. John in the Apocalypse:
 - Persecutions
 - Confusion
 - Jesus coming as the Just Judge, not the Merciful Savior
 - Divine Filiation, or participation in God's own life through the free gift of His grace in the sacraments
 - The gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - Spiritual warfare

Is there anything in this study which we have not covered in the group discussions which you would like to discuss today?