

We want to jump right into the next message in this installment series. We had deconstructed the term “war.” We saw that the term used was not *strateuó*,¹ but *polemeó*²—*strateuó* being the manner in which armies clash in the field of battle; but *polemeó* is that of a verbal warfare, hearts and minds warfare. Consider that meaning, *polemeó*—polemics, arguments, quarrels—within the context in which it occurs.

“Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” (Revelation 13:4b NKJV)

Since this is a verbal throwdown, a verbal conflict, look at the rest of it.

And he was given a mouth [so the beast, this systemic kingdom was given a mouth] speaking great things and blasphemies, ... (Revelation 13:5a).

Does it make sense, then? Is it consistent with what is being said in the passage, to apply the meaning of *polemeó* or polemics? Well, of course. But if you are talking about military engagements, what then is the meaning of being given a mouth? Why do you need a mouth in a shooting warfare? If this is about guns and sieges and military confrontations, as some so routinely suggest, what is the relevance of it being given a mouth? And remember, from Daniel the 7th chapter that speaks about this beast, it was a little horn that came up.³ Earlier on in the Book of Revelation, introducing the beast in this very chapter, there were seven heads and ten horns, and on one of the heads—of course, there were horns on each of the heads—but on one them, this little horn comes up, and it speaks blasphemous things.⁴ That horn was given a mouth.

All Scripture quotations are from the NKJV Bible, unless otherwise noted.

¹ See *strateuó*, Strong’s Greek 4754 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/4754.htm>

² See *polemeó*, Strong’s Greek 4170 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/4170.htm>

³ See Daniel 7:7b-8: “It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.”

⁴ See Revelation 13:1b, 5a: “And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.... And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies...”

We understand from our previous studies that the horns on a beast are the means by which the animal projects its power. So with ten horns on seven heads, there is power in all of these systems over mankind because this kingdom is a systemic kingdom. We understand that. We have been teaching about this. If you have just come into the series, then this will not make any sense to you, so go back and listen to the rest of the series. We have been talking about how Satan’s kingdom has always been a systemic kingdom based in the need for provision and protection and mandated by the conflict between the seed of the serpent and the Seed of the woman.⁵ The form of this conflict has increasingly become systemic, and at the end of the age there are seven systems on which human life depends for provision and protection, which is all-encompassing provision and protection. Out of that, a subset, you will gain an identity associated with the beast, which is this whole matter of a mark, taking the mark of the beast⁶—having an identity that relates to provision and protection within the ambit of the influences of this beast which projects its power through seven systems ruled over by ten persons of influence who are called kings or sovereigns.

One of these horns speaks great things and blasphemies. As I said, within the meaning of the term polemics/*polemeó*, this makes perfect sense. The other, as a shooting war, is without reference in the Scriptures. Certainly, it is not the word *strateuó*. It is the word *polemeó*. The speaking of this little horn is the manner in which it wages war against the saints and overcomes them (cf. Revelation 13:7). It would be problematic if the beast could actually physically destroy the saints, as in a shooting war, because then the question is: Who is more powerful in a war? Or where is God in the protection of His people? The idea of being raptured out of here is to quit the field and admit defeat. But this is not that war. This is not that kind of war. This is a war of words. This is a war of ideologies. This is about popularity. This is about dominating the culture. This is about filling the airways with sounds. So, what kind of sounds?

⁵ See Genesis 3:15: “And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

⁶ See Revelation 13:16-17: “He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”

It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them (Revelation 13:7).

Before we get to what kind of sounds, let us look at that part about overwhelming or overcoming the saints. If you are a believer and you think that you are going to get on social media and correct all these Cretans on social media whose distorted natures have been given full rein, together with anonymity, so they can vomit this vile and contemptible stuff so routinely, if you think that somehow we are going to clear the air and get everybody to see what the truth is, then you have not read the Scriptures. Listen, God wants you to know what is going on, but you are not going to correct it.

I am amused and amazed that the foremost alleged prophets of our time do not see that the warfare is for ideology. Instead, when they talk about a cultural war and when they tell you to prepare for war, they mean a shooting war of some kind. They talk about needing to lay down your life for your faith because they have all embraced this mythology that they are coming for us. They do not understand. The war is here. It is being fought on Twitter. It is being fought on Facebook. It is being fought on YouTube. The war is here. Because of historic Christianity and historic evangelicalism, and because it has firmly staked out this war as a shooting war in the minds of people who are believers, their entire paradigm is based on that. And so it is easy to sell freeze-dried foods and guns and ammunition.

I remember this one occasion I was talking to this one fellow who had a farm in Oklahoma. He is dead now, so I can talk about it. He told me that he had about 150 guns with which he had fortified the farmhouse in Oklahoma, he had planted crops, and he had several thousand rounds of ammunition. I said to him, “Bob, in your apocalyptic scenario, if somebody is driving out from Oklahoma City or walking out of Oklahoma City down to your farm, because that is where food is, am I to understand that you, as a believer, are going to sit in your fortified house, looking through peepholes with guns pointed at these hapless wretches who are starving, and your intent is to sit there and shoot people all day long? Is that what I am hearing you say?” He saw the abominable perspective that he had casually embraced.

A believer defending his food supply, or even defending his life in the name of Christ? Now I am not saying that you do not have a right to defend yourself. You do. You do have a right to defend yourself, and you have a right to defend yourself violently. But if it is the question of your faith, because that is what we are talking about... This war is not about economics. This war is about a conflict between the people of God and the beast. It is about who you are.

What is the biblical admonition regarding engaging in this war if it is that kind of war? Well, Jesus would say, “If you lost your life for My sake and the gospel’s, then you will gain your life.”⁷ I heard this one idiot on television the other day—and I am sorry, but there are so many of them; and they think that by getting up and spouting these irrational things and doing so loudly, that they could hide themselves under the label “prophet.” But he was boastfully carrying on about how all of the ushers at “his church” (“my church,” he said) pack weapons. “And if you come in here, I have given my ushers orders...” —and of course, they are “his ushers” and it is “his church,” so he has a right to do whatever he wants to I guess. But do not confuse that with the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. These are just loud talking, uninformed posturers. These are not prophets. My God, what have we come to? Prophets? —who was telling his audience, an applauding audience by the way, “My ushers are all packing. You come in here, they are going to kill you. They are going to take you down.”

How would that have played with the early believers in Rome when the Romans were hunting them? Should they have formed cohorts and engaged the Roman military? It is the kind of mindless drivel, blustering, posturing, macho that is passing for the prophetic. No wonder the people are deaf and blind. If these are their leaders, of course they are going to be deafened by these rantings. I am saying, this is not even the war. This is a red herring. And what it is doing more than anything else, it is disclosing the nature of those who claim to be prophets and also claim to be leaders of the people of God. These are just loud-mouthed, loud talking people.

⁷ See Mark 8:35: “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.”

Listen, what did Jesus say to Peter when he drew a sword to defend Jesus and cut off the high priest's servant's ear? The high priest's servant's name was Malchus.⁸ He cut off Malchus's ear. Did Jesus say, "Peter, I am going to elevate you to head usher because you did the right thing."? You know, it is simple. We have actually forgotten what the word of God is. We are caught up in such soulish hysteria. These are not mature believers. These are children, pompous children, talking big because nobody has actually come to shoot at them. I suppose I ought to leave that and continue to explain what this war is. While they are engaged in this posturing and loud speech, the real war has already come. The fact is, evangelicalism is rapidly being shown to be conflated with White supremacy, and the speakers are one and the other. But the real war is against a real enemy and those who are actually the real people of God, not a harlot church rapidly descending into deception and darkness even as this great separation has come.

This is what is going to happen. "And he was given a mouth..."—because it is a war of words, and it speaks simultaneously "great things and blasphemies" (cf. Revelation 13:5). So it is a mixed message. It is bait and switch. It will tell you things are true. It will tell you things that are even exalted and elevated, but in the coating of that, he will slip in the poison that is actually blasphemy against God.

I am beyond words at times to see what has happened and how quickly it has happened to the evangelical church. It is staking out its position. It has become the aggressor, and it is not the aggressor because it is being persecuted. It is the aggressor because it fears losing its way of life. This is not about suffering for Christ and for the sake of the gospel. This is about the fear of losing privilege. And on any basis on which it can draw a battle line, it will do so. It is now drawing battle lines behind duck blinds, or battle lines on vaccines, and all forms of red herrings.

Even as I said that, I know that is the sacred cow of many people who will hear what I am saying, and that is the reason they will turn me off. Again I say, I do not really care. If a person insists on misdirection, misinformation, and is mired in that stuff, knock yourself out. Help yourself to the largest helpings of it. I do not really care. I do not know what to say to wake up foolish people,

⁸ See John 18:10: "Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus."

silly people, deceived people, who, in obsessing about these unimportant issues, are leaving entirely untended the matter of revelation and prophetic utterances that are meant to illuminate the darkness of the present age.

There were two reasons Israel perished in the wilderness: one was disobedience and the other was unbelief. Unbelief is the result of seeing and not seeing, hearing and not hearing, neither understanding. You see, it was not that they were not seeing, and it was not that they were not hearing; it is that they were seeing and hearing, but they were not seeing when they were seeing and they were not hearing when they were hearing. What is the condition in which a person is, who sees and does not see, who hears and does not hear? What is that condition? It is the condition of only seeing what you want to see and only hearing what you want to hear. That produces stubbornness, which is the same as lawlessness.

By and large, the evangelical church has come to the place where it cannot be led. The mob is leading. I saw the other day where Franklin Graham was calling for prayer for Mike Pence, and the blowback was that Mike Pence was a traitor, that he was a sellout, and on and on in the most disgusting of language—the rage, the vituperation in the hearts of these people. I think this is the cautionary tale. You see, Franklin and others like him were happy to lead a people when their opinions matched with the opinions of a mob. They are finding out that the mob has no real leader except its basest instincts, and they are as willing to cast aside a Mike Pence, they are willing to cast aside a Franklin Graham, or whoever. And frankly, these fellows deserve that treatment because they were not leaders who spoke from the point of view of God; they spoke from the point of view of their politics.

As I have said many times, God is simply discarding this form of leadership because it never was representative of what God was saying, and He is raising up the leadership that has always been responsive to what God is saying. I am telling you that the whole point of this is to return a people to the hearing of God.

Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven (Revelation 13:6).

I have already deconstructed the component of this that says he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God; and then contextually, he blasphemes God’s name, which is God’s authority; he blasphemes the Body of Christ and all that that has to do with. The Body of Christ is not inclusive of everything and everyone. Let us understand that. Let me say it again: The Body of Christ is not inclusive of everything and everyone. The Body of Christ consists of a holy people—not a filthy people, not people who turn away from the truth, not people who turn away from the living God. It is comprised of a holy people. The blasphemy against His dwelling place, the Body of Christ, is going to highlight things we do that are not popular.

Someone criticizing me on social media the other day highlighted things that I said and did. It was a young woman who positioned these things to popular appeal. Someone who called it to my attention said, “Does she not understand that you are simply quoting the Scriptures, in terms of the things you stand for?” Well, of course, people understand that if you make your appeal to the generally accepted standards of society, that you have an audience; and they do not actually care what the Scriptures say. Why should I care what they think then? If they do not care about the standard of Scripture, and instead go to the standard of social media, what do I need to care about what they say? I do not. I am sent as a messenger of Christ, not as a popular herald of socially acceptable tomes. All of that will perish. It may not perish in my day, but it will surely perish.

I have already spoke about blasphemy against God in the three contexts of:

1. His name, which is His power;
2. His tabernacle, or the Body of Christ; and
3. Those seated with Him in the heavenly realms.

In this war the outcome is not uncertain. The beast engages this kind of polemics. It will redefine what is the Body of Christ. It will redefine the authority and power and the sources of sovereignty from which people may operate. It will turn it away from the claim of the Lord Jesus Christ to possessing all authority in heaven and on earth,⁹ and it will turn it to how many Twitter followers

⁹ See Matthew 28:18: “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’”

you have. If you are suckered into that kind of a mindset as believers, you are going to lose the battle. I am telling you now, you are going to lose the battle. They will make war against the saints and will overcome them in the popular arena. In the marketplace of ideas, the Scriptures are a losing proposition to the majority of people. And God does not care that that is true. He said it already. That the way that leads to destruction is broad, and many will find it.¹⁰ He is going to redefine the church away from a popularity contest, and He is going to bring it back to what it always has been, which is accuracy of alignment to eternal truths. In that sense, we do not lose the battle, even if we lose the war. The truth will ultimately prevail.

I am Sam Soleyn, and we will continue our discussion of Revelation, chapter 13. Thank you.

¹⁰ See Matthew 7:13: “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.”