

Through the Bible

REVELATION - III

Zac Poonen



Illustrations by Vinay Kuruvilla

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CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

69, PARADISE ENCLAVE, BELAHALLI
KANNUR POST, BANGALORE - 562 149
INDIA

IN 9:12--17, WE READ ABOUT THE **SIXTH TRUMPET**. **FOUR DEMONS** BOUND IN THE RIVER EUPHRATES WILL BE **RELEASED** THEN WHO WILL **KILL 200 MILLION PEOPLE**.

THERE WILL BE A **FIERCE WAR** AROUND **IRAQ** (THE RIVER EUPHRATES GOES THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF IRAQ).

THEN IN 9:20, WE READ THAT THE REST OF MANKIND STILL DID **NOT REPENT**.

IN 10:1--3, AN **ANGEL** COMES DOWN AND CRIES OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE AND THEN THERE ARE **SEVEN PEALS OF THUNDER**. JOHN WAS ABOUT TO WRITE WHAT THE SEVEN PEALS OF THUNDER SAID WHEN THE LORD TOLD HIM **NOT TO**.

NO !

IF YOU **WALK** WITH THE LORD, HE WILL TELL YOU SOME **SECRETS** THAT ARE MEANT ONLY FOR YOU AND FOR **NO-ONE ELSE**.

THE LORD TOLD JOHN, "TAKE THE BOOK WHICH IS IN THE **ANGEL'S** HAND AND **EAT IT**. IT WILL BE AS SWEET AS **HONEY** IN YOUR MOUTH, BUT IT WILL MAKE YOUR **STOMACH BITTER**" (10:8, 9). GOD'S WORD DOES A **DOUBLE WORK** -- IT **ENCOURAGES** US, BUT ALSO TAKES US THROUGH **BITTER EXPERIENCES OF TRIAL AND TRIBULATION**.

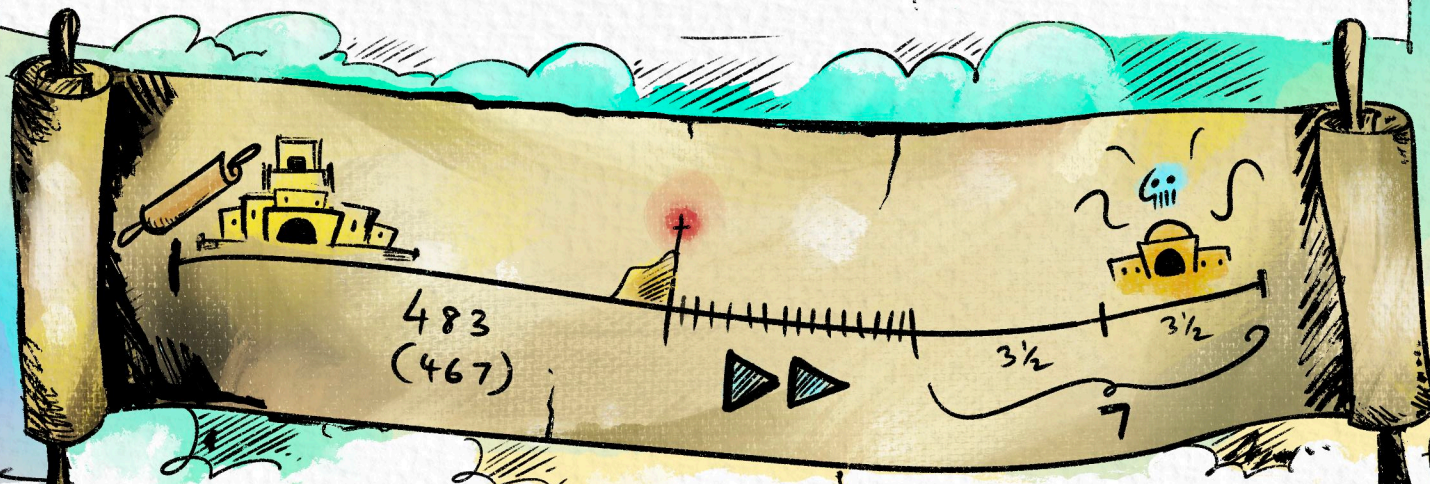
THEN WE READ ABOUT THE DAYS WHEN THE **MYSTERY OF GOD** WOULD BE **FINISHED** (10:7). THE **SEVENTH ANGEL** HAS SOUNDED THE **LAST TRUMPET** AND THE MYSTERY IS **FINISHED**. THE MYSTERY OF GOD IS THE **CHURCH** AS THE **BRIDE OF CHRIST** (SEE EPHESIANS 5:31, 32).



IN 11:1, JOHN WAS ASKED TO MEASURE THE TEMPLE OF GOD. GOD IS MEASURING HIS CHURCH -- BUT ONLY THOSE "WHO WORSHIP IN THE MOST HOLY PLACE". THOSE IN THE OUTER COURT ARE IGNORED (11:1, 2).

THE LORD GAVE DANIEL A PROPHECY OF A 490-YEAR PERIOD (DANIEL 9:24 -- ONE DAY SYMBOLISING ONE YEAR). OUT OF THAT PERIOD, 483 YEARS WOULD PASS FROM THE TIME KING CYRUS COMMANDED JERUSALEM TO BE REBUILT UP TO THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS (DANIEL 9:25, 26)

JERUSALEM WILL BE TRAMPLED DOWN FOR 42 MONTHS (1260 DAYS) (11:2). THIS IS THE LAST-HALF OF THE SEVEN YEARS OF TRIBULATION.



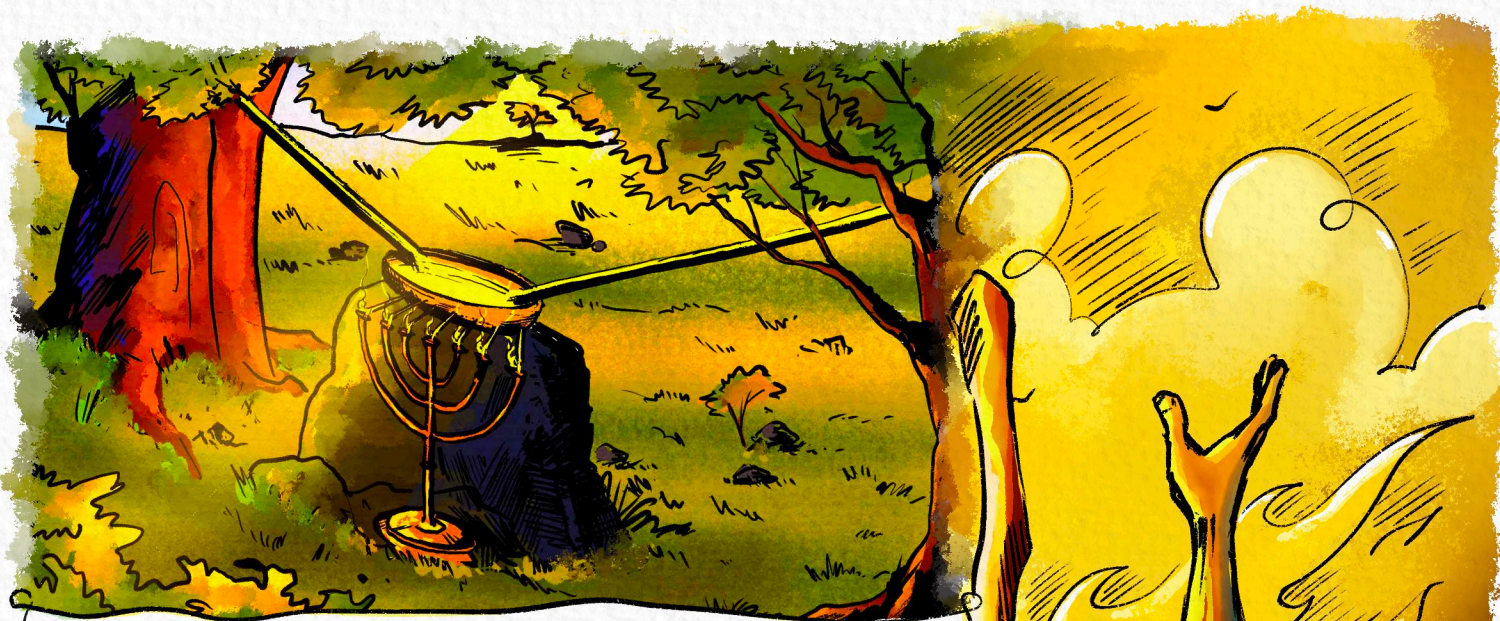
IN THE PROPHETIC CALENDAR -- IN DANIEL AND IN REVELATION -- ONE YEAR IS COUNTED AS ONLY 360 DAYS. SO 483 PROPHETIC YEARS OF 360 DAYS ARE EQUAL TO 476 SOLAR YEARS OF 365 DAYS. AND IT WAS EXACTLY 476 YEARS FROM THE TIME OF THE COMMAND TO REBUILD JERUSALEM UP TO THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS.

THE REMAINING 7 YEARS OF THAT PERIOD WERE CARRIED FORWARD TO THE END OF TIME -- AND WILL BE FULFILLED IN THE 7-YEAR-PERIOD OF TRIBULATION AT THE END OF THIS AGE (DANIEL 9:27).



THE SECOND HALF OF THAT 7-YEAR-PERIOD IS CALLED "THE GREAT TRIBULATION" -- 1260 DAYS, OR 3 1/2 YEARS -- THE SAME PERIOD OF TIME THAT JESUS EXERCISED HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY. THE ANTICHRIST WILL DUPLICATE THAT AND HAVE LORDSHIP OVER THE EARTH FOR 3 1/2 YEARS.

AT THAT TIME THERE WILL BE TWO WITNESSES (SYMBOLICALLY) FOR THE LORD ON EARTH (11:3, 4).



ZECHARIAH ALSO SAW A **SIMILAR** VISION OF **TWO OLIVE TREES** SUPPLYING OIL TO A **LAMPSTAND** (ZECHARIAH 4:11-13). THESE SYMBOLISED A **TWO-FOLD PROPHETIC MINISTRY** IN THE **LAST DAYS**.

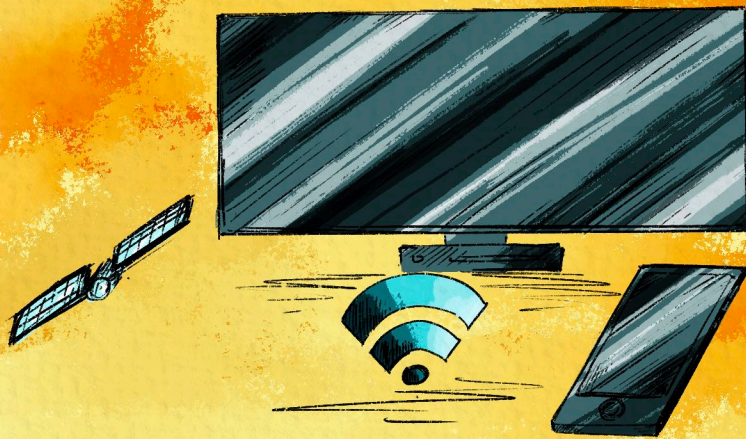


WHEN THEY **SPEAK**, **FIRE** PROCEEDS OUT OF THEIR MOUTH (SYMBOLICALLY SPEAKING) TO **DEVOUR** THEIR ENEMIES. THEY HAVE POWER TO **STOP** THE **RAIN** AND TO TURN THE **RIVERS** INTO **BLOOD** (11:6). THIS MINISTRY WILL BE **SIMILAR** TO THE MINISTRIES OF **MOSES** AND **ELIJAH** WHO DID **SIMILAR MIRACLES**.



AND FINALLY, WHEN THEY **FINISH** THEIR MINISTRY, THEY WILL BE **KILLED** (11:7). A **TRUE SERVANT** OF THE LORD WHO WALKS IN THE **WILL** OF GOD, **CANNOT** BE **KILLED** UNTIL HE HAS **FINISHED** HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY.

THESE PROPHETS WILL BE **PUBLICLY SHAMED**. THEIR **DEAD BODIES** WILL LIE IN THE **STREET** OF **JERUSALEM** (11:8).



JOHN WAS THEN TOLD THAT PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE **WORLD** WOULD BE ABLE TO **SEE** THEIR **DEAD BODIES** LYING ON THE **STREET** FOR **3½ DAYS** (11:9). HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN? BY **SATELLITE TELEVISION** -- WHICH WAS **UNKNOWN** IN JOHN'S TIME.


THE **WORLD** WILL **REJOICE** WHEN THESE **CHRISTIAN PROPHETS** ARE **KILLED**. THE **WORLD** (INCLUDING **RELIGIOUS CHRISTENDOM**) HAS ALWAYS **REJOICED** AT THE DEATH OF **TRUE PROPHETS**.



BUT THEN A **MIRACLE** WILL TAKE PLACE. AFTER **3½ DAYS**, THESE TWO **PROPHETS** WILL BE **RAISED** FROM THE **DEAD**. WHEN THEY ARE **RAISED** UP, A **GREAT FEAR** COMES UPON EVERYONE. THEY WILL THEN BE **TAKEN UP** TO **HEAVEN**. THEN THERE WILL BE A **GREAT EARTHQUAKE** AND **ONE-TENTH** OF THE **CITY** WILL **FALL** (11:11--13).



THEN THE **SEVENTH ANGEL** SOUNDS AND THERE IS A **PROCLAMATION**, "THE **KINGDOM** OF THE **WORLD** HAS **BECOME** THE **KINGDOM** OF OUR **LORD JESUS CHRIST**. HE WILL REIGN **FOREVER AND EVER**" (11:15). WE SAW A **BIRD'S EYE** VIEW OF THE **LAST DAYS** IN **CHAPTER 6**, AND WE SAW **ANOTHER ONE** IN **CHAPTER 11**.



JOSEPH HAD A DREAM IN WHICH HE SAW THE ELEVEN STARS (REPRESENTING HIS 11 BROTHERS) BOWING DOWN TO HIM. SO WHEN WE COMPARE SCRIPTURE WITH SCRIPTURE, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE 12 STARS REFER TO THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL.

"A GREAT SIGN APPEARED IN HEAVEN, A WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN, THE MOON UNDER HER FEET AND ON HER HEAD A CROWN OF TWELVE STARS" (12:1).


SO THIS WOMAN SYMBOLISES ISRAEL, AND SHE BRINGS FORTH A CHILD. THAT CHILD WAS JESUS, BORN IN ISRAEL.



THEN WE READ OF A DRAGON (THE DEVIL) WHO LONG AGO TOOK ONE THIRD OF THE ANGELS ("STARS OF HEAVEN") WITH HIM WHEN HE REBELLED AGAINST GOD (12:4). ALL OF THEM BECAME DEMONS.

SO, TWO-THIRDS OF THE ANGELS REMAINED FAITHFUL TO GOD. REMEMBER THEREFORE THAT FOR EVERY DEMON IN THE WORLD THERE ARE TWO ANGELS ON OUR SIDE!

THE DRAGON WAITS IN FRONT OF THE WOMAN (ISRAEL) TO SWALLOW UP THE CHILD. THAT'S WHAT HEROD TRIED TO DO -- TO KILL THE BABY JESUS.



BUT HE **DIDN'T** SUCCEED. THE CHILD (JESUS) FINALLY **ASCENDS** TO GOD AND TO HIS **THRONE** (12:5).

IN 12:7--10, WE READ HOW SATAN IS CAST DOWN FROM THE **SECOND HEAVEN** ("THE HEAVENLY PLACES" -- EPHESIANS 6:12). MANY YEARS **EARLIER**, HE WAS CAST DOWN FROM THE **THIRD HEAVEN** (THE IMMEDIATE PRESENCE OF GOD) TO THE **SECOND HEAVEN**. **NOW** HE IS CAST DOWN FROM THERE TO THE **EARTH**.



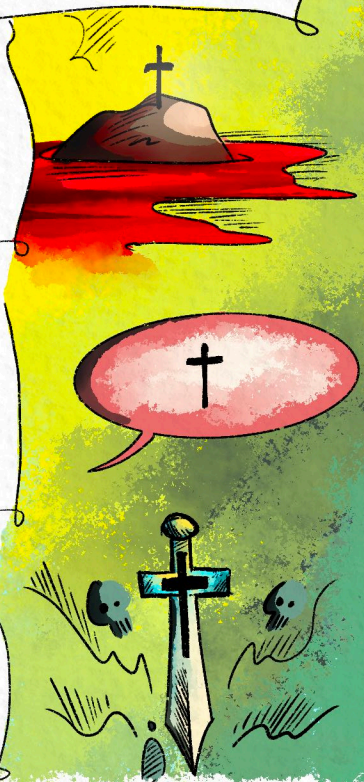
IN 12:11, WE SEE **THREE STEPS** TO **OVERCOME SATAN**.

FIRST, BY THE **BLOOD** OF JESUS CHRIST.

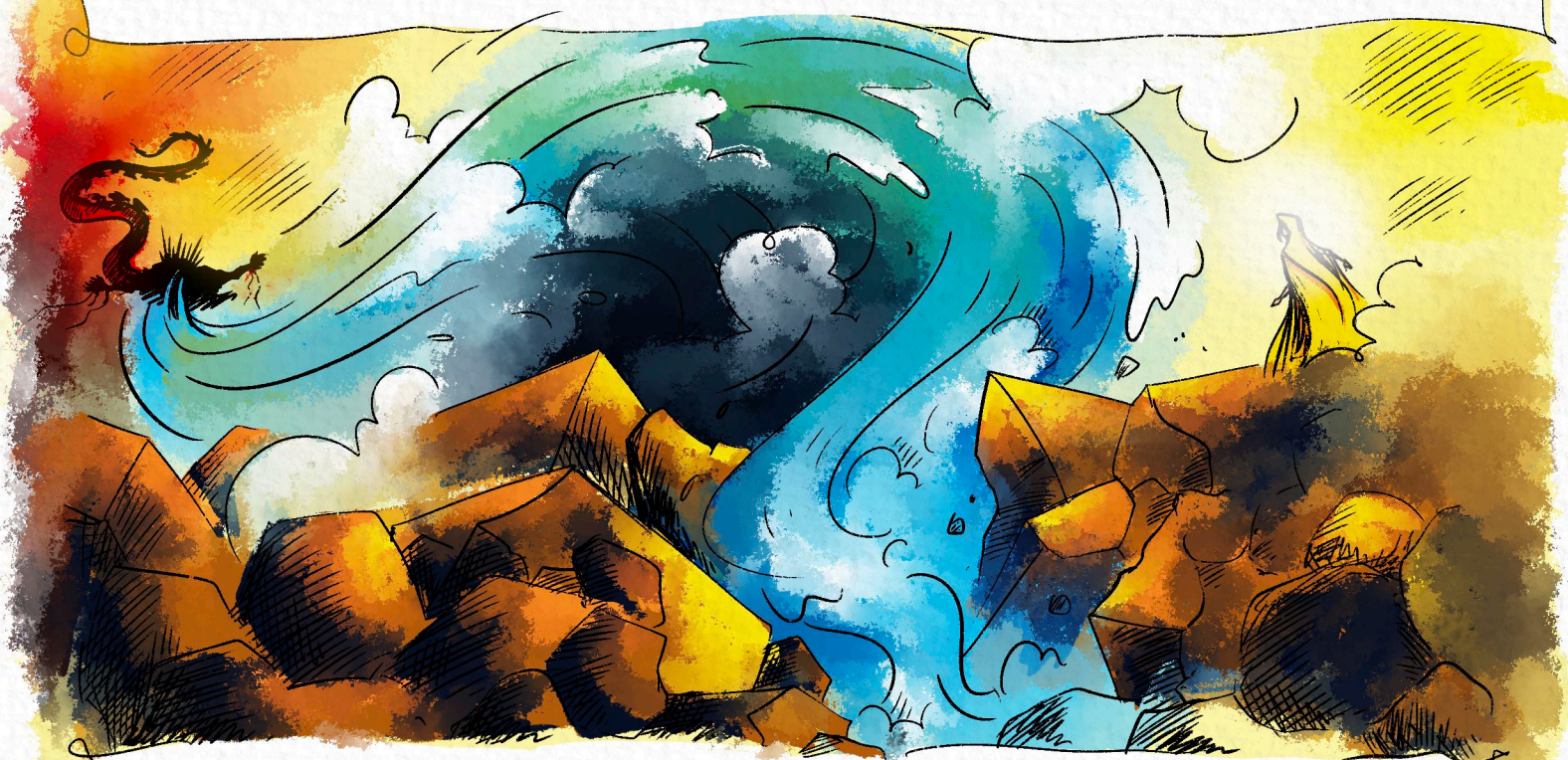
SECONDLY, BY "THE **WORD** OF OUR **TESTIMONY**." WE MUST TELL SATAN **FREQUENTLY** THAT HE WAS **DEFEATED** ON THE **CROSS**

HE IS CALLED HERE THE "**DECEIVER** OF THE **WHOLE WORLD**" AND THE "**ACCUSER** OF **BELIEVERS**". HE **ACCUSES BELIEVERS** TO GOD **CONSTANTLY** -- **DAY AND NIGHT** (12:10). WE CAN **EXPOSE WRONG DOCTRINES** IN OTHER BELIEVERS AND **DISAGREE** WITH THEM. BUT WE MUST **NEVER JOIN SATAN** IN **ACCUSING** THEM.

THIRDLY, BY **NOT LOVING** OUR **SELF-LIFE**, BUT INSTEAD **PUTTING IT TO DEATH** (GALATIANS 5:24).



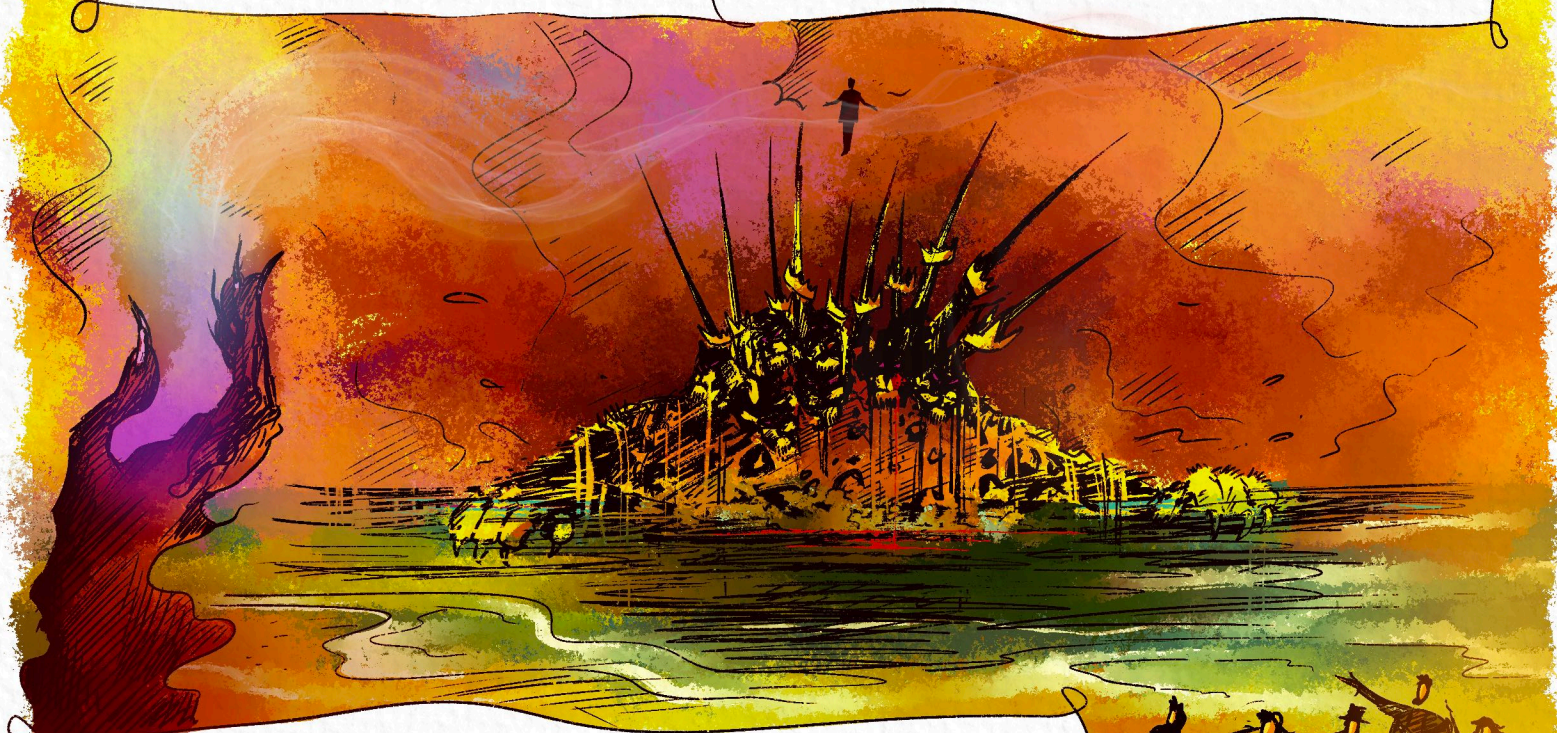
IN 12:13--16, WE SEE THE DRAGON SEEKING TO **PERSECUTE** THE WOMAN (THE **JEWISH REMNANT**) BECAUSE **JESUS** CAME FORTH FROM **ISRAEL**. THROUGHOUT WORLD **HISTORY**, THERE HAVE BEEN PEOPLE WHO HAVE TRIED TO **DESTROY** THE **JEWS**.



WE READ THAT THE **EARTH** HELPED THE **WOMAN** AND **PROTECTED** HER FROM THE **ATTACKS** OF THE **DRAGON**.

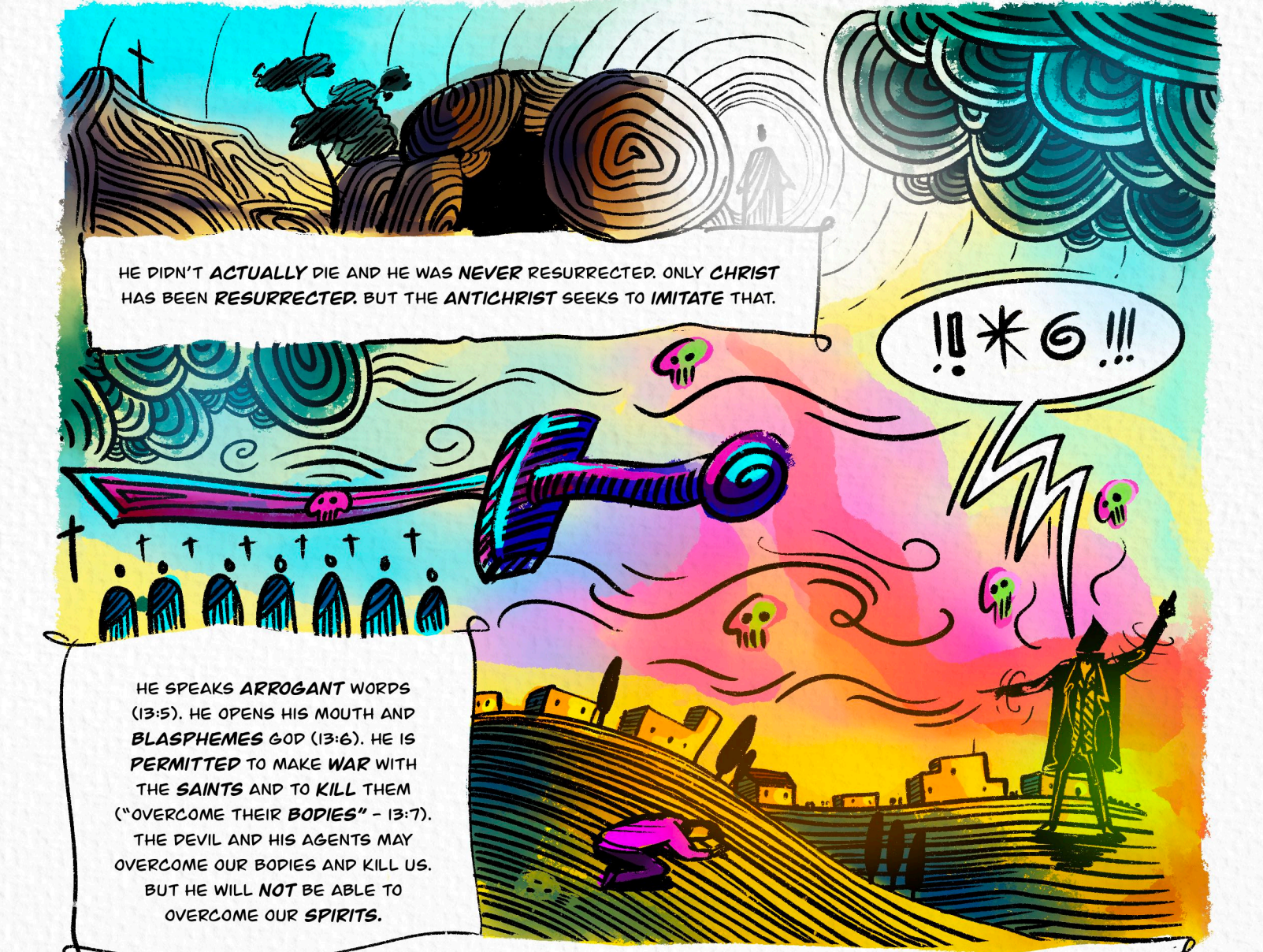
WHEN HE COULD **NOT SUCCEED** WITH **ISRAEL**, THE **DRAGON** WENT OFF TO MAKE **WAR** WITH THE **CHURCH** THAT **CAME FORTH** FROM HER (12:17).

IN 13:1, WE SEE A **BEAST** COMING OUT OF THE **SEA** HAVING **TEN HORNS**. THIS **PICTURES** THE RISE OF THE **ANTICHRIST**. WE SEE HIM BEING **SUPPORTED** BY THE **DRAGON**.



PEOPLE **WORSHIP** THE **ANTICHRIST**. BY **SUBTLE DECEPTION**, HE TRIES TO **IMITATE** THE **RESURRECTION** OF **CHRIST** (13:3). HE IS **HEALED** FROM A **DANGEROUS WOUND**, AND THE **WHOLE WORLD** **WONDERS** HOW HE COULD **RECOVER** FROM SUCH AN **INJURY**.

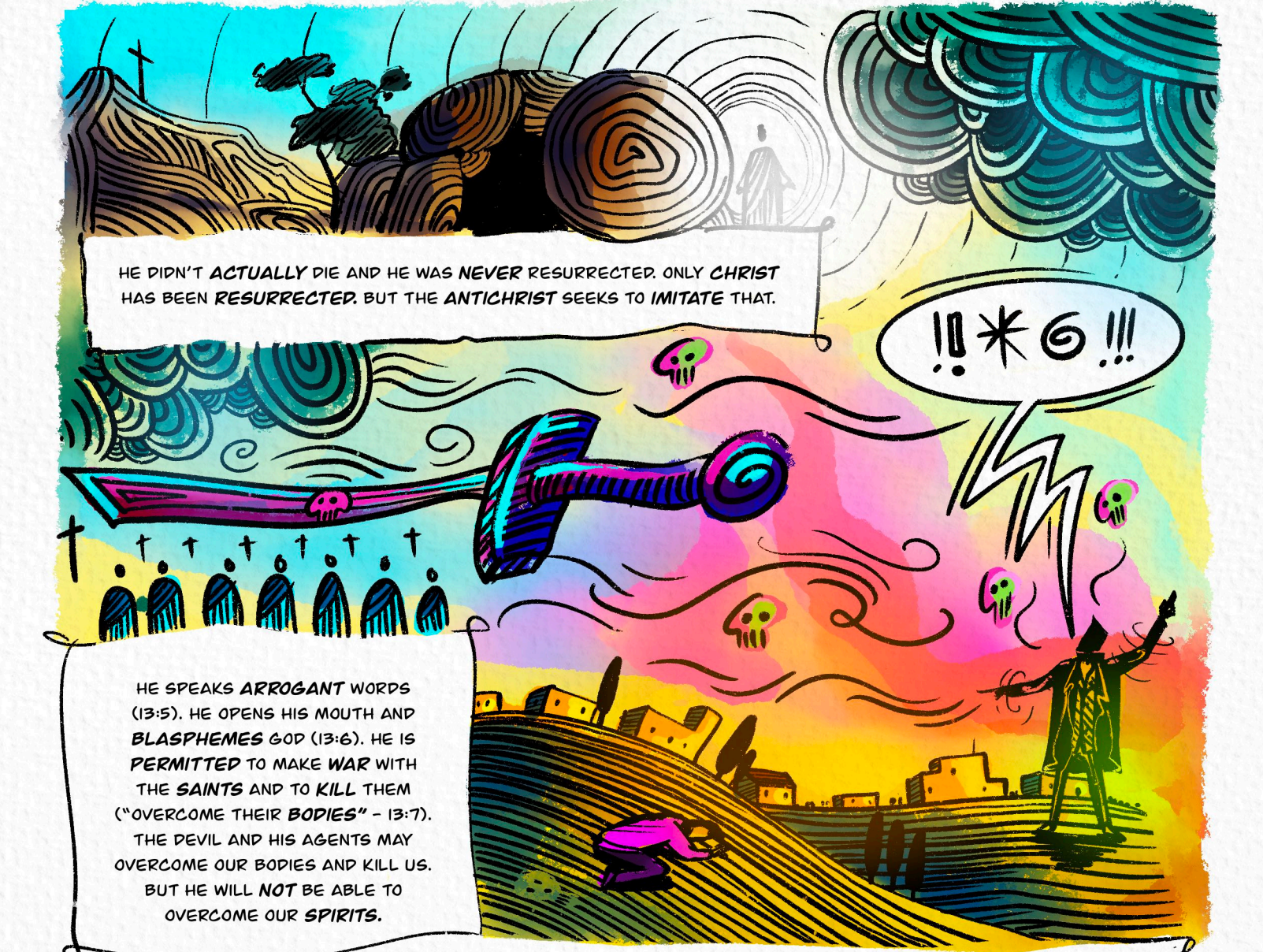




HE DIDN'T **ACTUALLY** DIE AND HE WAS **NEVER** RESURRECTED. ONLY **CHRIST** HAS BEEN **RESURRECTED**. BUT THE **ANTICHRIST** SEEKS TO **IMITATE** THAT.

HE SPEAKS **ARROGANT** WORDS (13:5). HE OPENS HIS MOUTH AND **BLASPHEMES** GOD (13:6). HE IS **PERMITTED** TO MAKE WAR WITH THE **SAINTS** AND TO **KILL** THEM ("OVERCOME THEIR **BODIES**" - 13:7). THE **DEVIL** AND HIS AGENTS MAY OVERCOME OUR BODIES AND KILL US. BUT HE WILL **NOT** BE ABLE TO OVERCOME OUR **SPIRITS**.

IN 13:8, WE READ THAT ALL **EARTH-DWELLERS** (THAT IS, THOSE WHOSE **MINDS** ARE **SET** ON THE THINGS OF **EARTH**) WILL WORSHIP THE **ANTICHRIST**. BUT THOSE WHOSE **NAMES** ARE **WRITTEN** IN THE **BOOK OF LIFE** WILL **NOT** WORSHIP HIM. THESE ARE THE **OVERCOMERS** WHOSE MINDS ARE **NOT** SET ON THE THINGS OF **EARTH**.



THEN **ANOTHER** BEAST COMES OUT FROM THE **EARTH** TO JOIN THE **ANTICHRIST** (13:11). THIS IS THE **FALSE PROPHET**. THIS NEW BEAST HAS HORNS LIKE A **LAMB**. HE **PRETENDS** TO BE A **FOLLOWER OF CHRIST**. HE HAS HORNS LIKE A **LAMB**, BUT HE SPEAKS LIKE A **DRAGON**. HE IS A **WOLF** IN **SHEEP'S** CLOTHING. HE HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE **POLITICAL** POWER, THE **ANTICHRIST**, AND HE PERFORMS **DECEIVING** SIGNS TO **FOOL** PEOPLE.

THIS COMPLETES THE **SATANIC TRINITY** OF **SATAN** (THE **MASTER**), THE **ANTICHRIST** (THE **POLITICAL** LEADER) AND THE **FALSE PROPHET** (THE **RELIGIOUS** LEADER). THIS COMBINATION OF **RELIGION**, **POLITICS** AND **SATAN** JOIN TOGETHER TO **PERSECUTE** THE CHURCH.

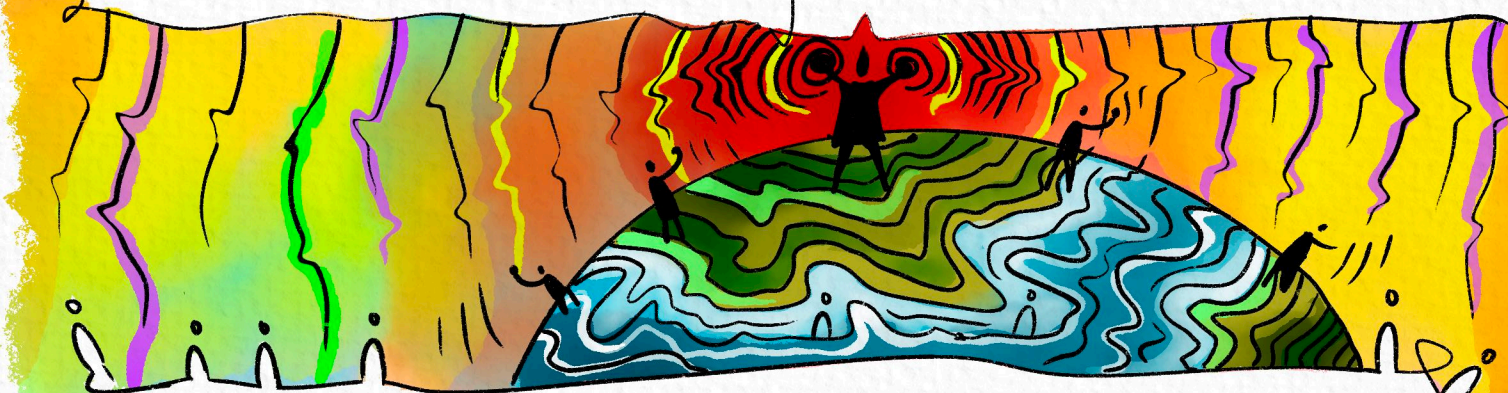
HE ALSO MAKES AN IMAGE OF THE **POLITICAL LEADER** AND MAKES THAT **IMAGE** TO **SPEAK**, THUS **DECEIVING** PEOPLE.

THEN THE **FALSE** PROPHET MAKES ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TO RECEIVE A MARK. IT'S CALLED "THE MARK OF THE BEAST". THIS MARK CAN BE TAKEN BY PEOPLE EITHER ON THEIR FOREHEAD OR ON THEIR RIGHT HANDS (13:16).

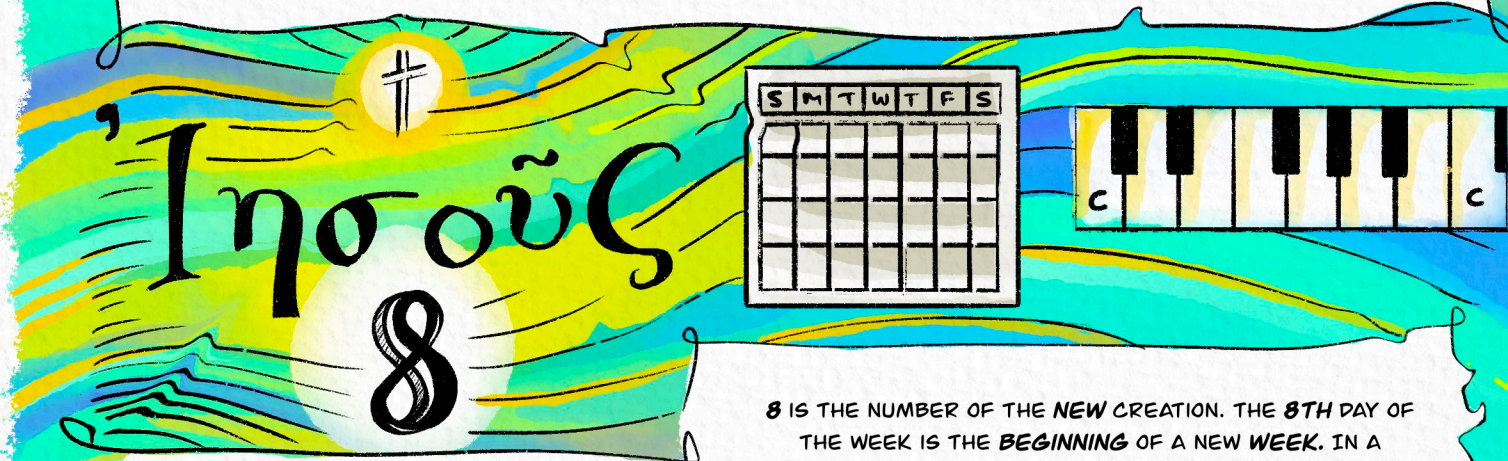


THIS WILL BE A **COMPUTERISED ROBOT** MADE TO **LOOK** EXACTLY LIKE A HUMAN BEING AND FROM WHICH A **RECORDED VOICE** COMES FORTH. THE **MOUTH** IS MADE TO **MOVE** ALONG WITH THE SPEECH IN A VERY **REALISTIC** WAY -- AND MANY ARE **DECEIVED**.

IF IT **INSIDE** THEIR **PALM**, THEY CAN **HIDE** IT FROM OTHERS. BUT IF IT IS ON THEIR **FOREHEAD** THEN EVERYONE CAN SEE IT. THAT MEANS THAT THE **DEVIL** GIVES PEOPLE THE **OPTION** TO BE EITHER **OPEN FOLLOWERS** OF HIS (HAVING HIS MARK ON THEIR **FOREHEADS**) OR **SECRET FOLLOWERS** (HAVING HIS MARK **HIDDEN** IN THE **PALMS** OF THEIR **HANDS**).

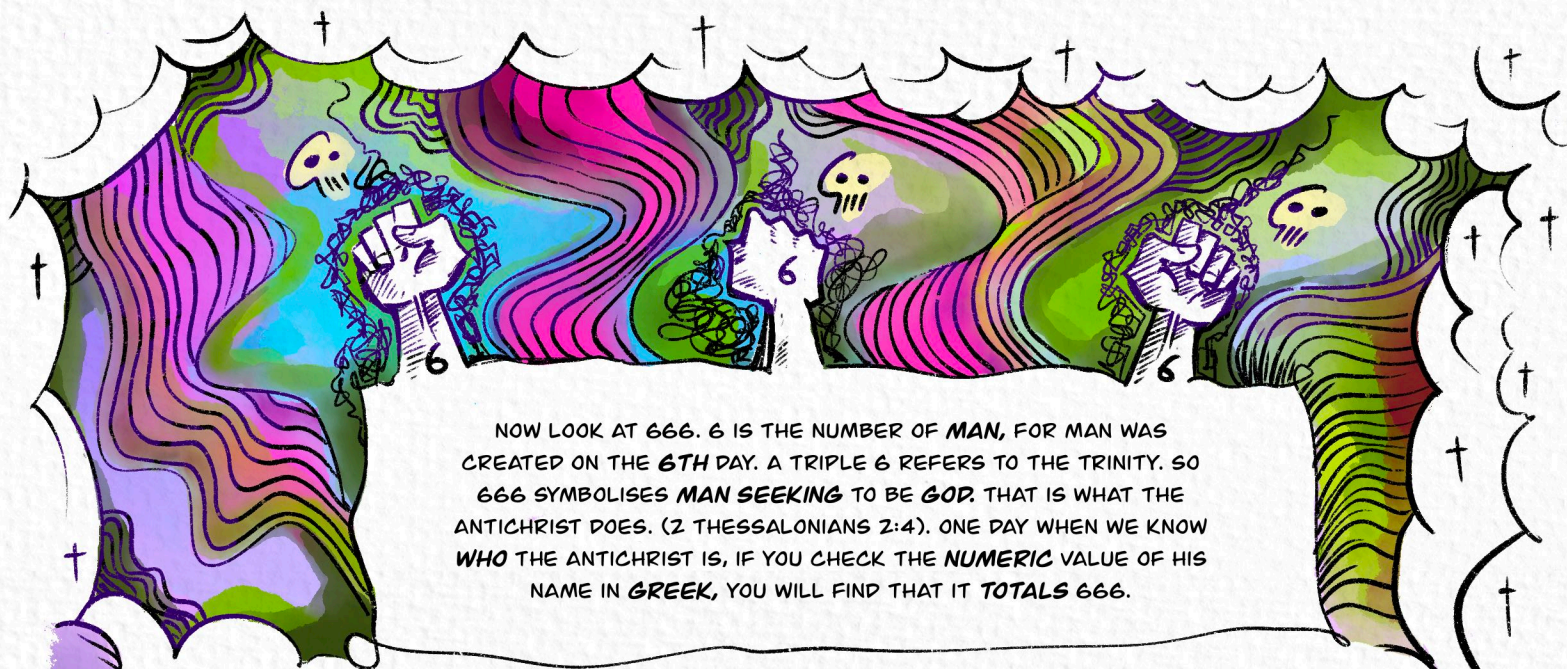


CHRISTIANS WHO **SECRETLY** FOLLOW **SATAN** CAN GET **MANY** THINGS IN THIS **WORLD**, AND YET **NOBODY** IN THE CHURCH MAY EVER KNOW THE **WRONG** THINGS THEY DO IN THEIR **PRIVATE** LIVES -- BECAUSE "THE **MARK OF THE BEAST**" IS **HIDDEN** IN THEIR **HANDS**. BUT ONE DAY **EVERYTHING** WILL BE **REVEALED**.



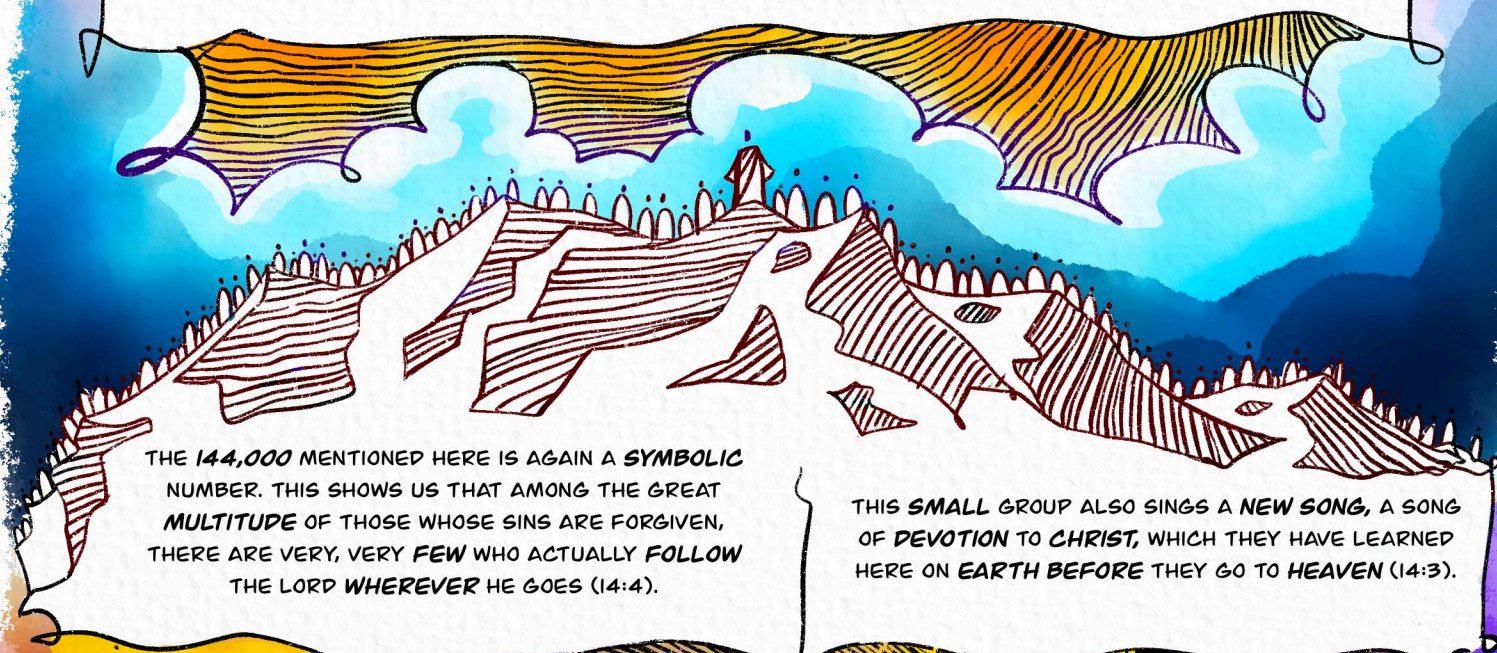
THE WORD 'JESUS' IN GREEK IS WRITTEN AS '**IESOUS**'. UNLIKE ENGLISH, EACH **GREEK** ALPHABET HAS A **NUMERIC** VALUE. THE TOTAL **NUMERIC** VALUE OF **I, E, S, O, U, S** IN **GREEK** IS **888**.

8 IS THE NUMBER OF THE **NEW** CREATION. THE **8TH** DAY OF THE WEEK IS THE **BEGINNING** OF A NEW WEEK. IN A **PIANO** KEYBOARD, THE **8TH** NOTE IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW **OCTAVE**. AND **JESUS** IS THE **BEGINNER** OF A NEW **CREATION**. A TRIPLE 8 REFERS TO THE **TRINITY**. SO THIS **NUMBER** SYMBOLISES **JESUS** AS **GOD** WHO IS ALSO A **MAN** AND THE **BEGINNER** OF THE **NEW** CREATION.



NOW LOOK AT 666. 6 IS THE NUMBER OF **MAN**, FOR MAN WAS CREATED ON THE **6TH** DAY. A TRIPLE 6 REFERS TO THE TRINITY. SO 666 SYMBOLISES **MAN SEEKING TO BE GOD**. THAT IS WHAT THE ANTICHRIST DOES. (2 THESSALONIANS 2:4). ONE DAY WHEN WE KNOW **WHO** THE ANTICHRIST IS, IF YOU CHECK THE **NUMERIC** VALUE OF HIS NAME IN **GREEK**, YOU WILL FIND THAT IT **TOTALS 666**.

IN 14:1--5, WE READ OF THE FOLLOWERS OF **JESUS**. BUT NOTICE THE **DIFFERENCE** BETWEEN THEM AND THE FOLLOWERS OF THE **ANTICHRIST**. THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS ARE **NOT** GIVEN THE OPTION TO HAVE THE MARK ON THEIR **HANDS**. IT HAS TO BE **ONLY** ON THEIR **FOREHEADS**. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU CANNOT BE A **SECRET** FOLLOWER OF JESUS. YOU HAVE TO BE AN **OPEN** FOLLOWER OF JESUS, OR **NOT** BE A FOLLOWER OF HIS AT ALL.



THE **144,000** MENTIONED HERE IS AGAIN A **SYMBOLIC** NUMBER. THIS SHOWS US THAT AMONG THE GREAT **MULTITUDE** OF THOSE WHOSE SINS ARE FORGIVEN, THERE ARE VERY, VERY **FEW** WHO ACTUALLY **FOLLOW** THE LORD **WHEREVER** HE GOES (14:4).

THIS **SMALL** GROUP ALSO SINGS A **NEW SONG**, A SONG OF **DEVOTION** TO **CHRIST**, WHICH THEY HAVE LEARNED HERE ON **EARTH** BEFORE THEY GO TO **HEAVEN** (14:3).



SO, TO BE IN THIS GROUP, ONE HAS TO GET RID OF ALL **LYING**, ALL **PRETENCE** AND ALL **HYPOCRISY** FROM THEIR LIVES. THESE ARE THE **TRUE** FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, THE BRIDE OF JESUS CHRIST. THEY HAVE BEEN "**PURCHASED** FROM THE **EARTH**" (14:3), MEANING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN **FREED** FROM **ATTACHMENT** TO THIS EARTH.

IT ALSO SAYS ABOUT THEM THAT THEY "HAVE NOT BEEN **DEFILED** WITH WOMEN, BUT HAVE KEPT THEMSELVES **PURE**" (14:4). THIS REFERS TO THEIR HAVING **KEPT** THEMSELVES FROM THE **HARLOT BABYLON** -- **WORLDLY CHRISTIANITY**