

Revelation

ILLUSTRATED

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Top 10 Reasons for Rome's Antagonism Against Christians

10. Christians were mostly from the ranks of the poor and outcast

- Looked down on by the “respectable”

9. Christians came in conflict with financial interest of many Romans

- Priests, makers of idols, and vendors of sacrificial animals

Top 10 Reasons for Rome's Antagonism Against Christians

8. Christians were looked upon as wild fanatics

- Because of their enthusiasm they shocked the sensibilities of the passive philosophers

7. Christians were accused of all manner of evils

- They thought Christian meetings were for gratification of lusts (cannibalism)

Top 10 Reasons for Rome's Antagonism Against Christians

6. Christians were considered as worse than Jews

- Because of their refusal to compromise, they were held in contempt

5. Christians refused to go to war (Traitors)

- Soldiers oath and initiation involved idols
- Christ took the sword and gave peace

Top 10 Reasons for Rome's Antagonism Against Christians

4. Christianity was an illegal religion

– So long as a religion didn't try to proselyte, it was legal

3. Christianity promoted the kingdom of God throughout the whole world.

– Religion was to be promoted only as an aid to the state

Top 10 Reasons for Rome's Antagonism Against Christians

2. Christianity was an exclusive religion
 - Refusal to worship idols made them looked upon as enemies of the Gods
1. Christians refused to worship the Emperor
 - Emperor considered the chief deity of the empire
 - Christians could not say Kurios Caesar was greater than Kurios Christ

Persecution and Martyrdom of Christians by Rome

- Domitian tried to annihilate this traitors faith
- Because of attitude toward Roman Gods, Christians were blamed for all calamities that befell the Empire
- The Imperial Government decided this seditious group must be destroyed to safeguard the permanence and integrity of the empire

Periods of Persecution under Roman Rule

1. **Nero** (c. 64-68).

Traditional martyrdoms of Peter and Paul.

2. **Domitian** (r. 81-96).

3. **Trajan** (112-117).

Christianity is outlawed but Christians are not sought out.

4. **Marcus Aurelius** (r. 161-180).

Martyrdom of Polycarp.

5. **Septimus Severus** (202-210).

Martyrdom of Perpetua.

Periods of Persecution under Roman Rule

6. Maximinus the Thracian (235-238)

7. Decius (250-251).

Christians are actively sought out by requiring public sacrifice. Could buy certificates (*libelli*) instead of sacrificing. Martyrdoms of bishops of Rome, Jerusalem and Antioch.

8. Valerian (257-259).

Martyrdoms of Cyprian of Carthage and Sixtus II of Rome.

9. Aurelian (r. 270–275).

10. Diocletian and Galerius (303-324).

Application Questions

- Are Christians persecuted today?
- Which of those reasons can you relate to as a Christian?
- What in our culture brings us persecution as Christians today?

Four Keys to Interpretation

1. Revelation is Written in Symbols

- 1:14–16; 6:7–8; 8:8–9; 12:1–4

2. Revelation is Written Primarily about Events Which Will “Shortly Come to Pass.”

- 1:1; 1:3; 3:10–11; 22:6

3. Revelation Was Given to Comfort Persecuted Christians.

- 1:9; 2:13; 6:9–11; 12:17; 13:7

4. Revelation Identifies Key Characters in Its Drama

- 2–3 Seven Churches of Asia Minor, 5 – The Lamb, 12 – the Woman with Child, 12 – Dragon, 13 – 1st and 2nd Beasts, 17 – the Prostitute

The Seven Churches



● Pergamum

● Thyatira

Sardis

● Smyrna ●

Philadelphia

Hierapolis

● Ephesus

Laodicea

● Colossae

● Patmos



The Lamb . . . Jesus Christ



The Woman . . . God's Covenant People



→ **Christ and Christians**

The Dragon . . . Satan



The First Beast . . . Roman Empire



Persecution

The Second Beast . . . Emperor Worship



False Religion

The Prostitute . . . Rome



Pagan Worldliness

PURPOSE:

- The Revelation was written to encourage the church to endure whatever hardships that the enemy might bring to bear on them, in order to OVERCOME.
- To present and maintain the incentive to be “faithful unto death.” This is accomplished by presenting the ultimate triumph of Good, and the ultimate defeat of Evil.
- The New Testament writers use νικη/νικᾶω twenty times. Eleven of the appearances of these words are in Revelation. νικη= victory.”

THE ULTIMATE DEFEAT OF SATAN AND HIS COHORTS

- **Satan defeated:**

- “The great dragon (12: 7–12) was cast down,” and “cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.” (20: 1-3, 7-10)

- **Satan’s cohorts defeated:**

- The Scarlet woman sitting upon the beast defeated (17: 1–18) description of the defeat of Rome (pagan worldliness)

- The first beast (Roman Empire – persecution) and the second beast (Emperor worship – false religion) are defeated 19: 11–21 (Dan 9:27)

- The allies of the beasts defeated 19:21

THE ULTIMATE TRIUMPH OF CHRIST AND HIS BRIDE

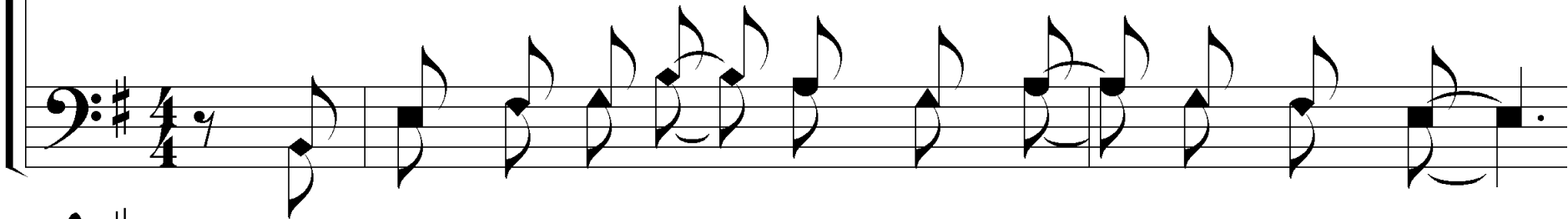
- **Christ victorious**
 - Victory over the first and second beasts, (19: 11–21)
 - Victory over the allies of the beasts, (19:21)
 - Victory over Satan, (20: 1–3, 7–10)
- **Bride (Church) victorious:**
 - The souls under the altar in heaven (6:9)
 - The great multitude “before the throne of God” (7:14–15)
 - The two witnesses (11: 3, 7, 11) “killed” yet alive!
 - Beheaded souls (20:4) “...and they lived.”
 - The holy city new Jerusalem... bride (21:2, 9–10)

The Battle Belongs to the Lord



Musical notation for the first staff, treble clef, key of D major, 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes.

In heav - en - ly ar - mor we'll en - ter the land,

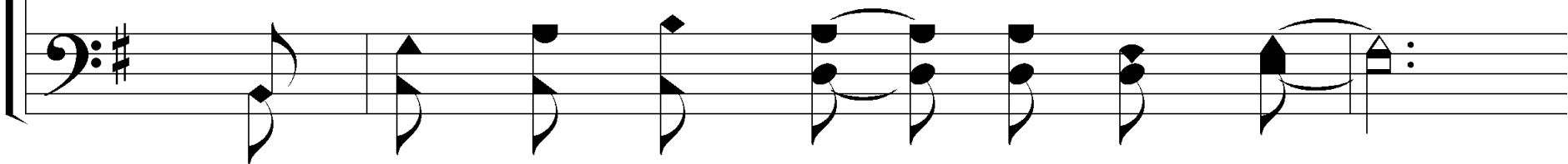


Musical notation for the second staff, bass clef, key of D major, 4/4 time signature. The accompaniment consists of eighth and quarter notes.



Musical notation for the third staff, treble clef, key of D major, 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes.

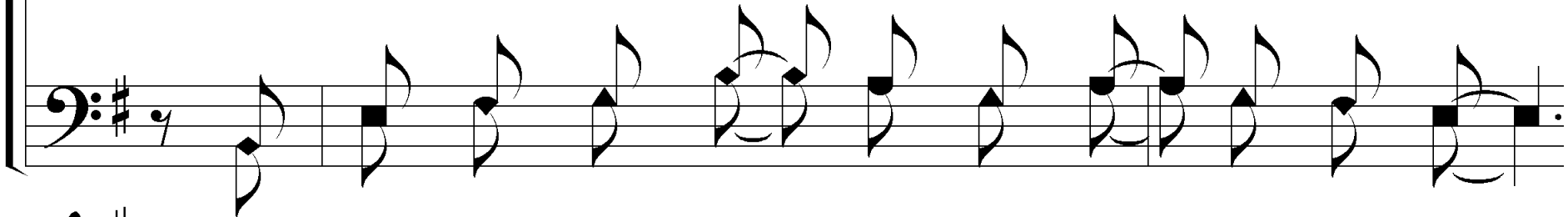
The bat - tle be - longs to the Lord.



Musical notation for the fourth staff, bass clef, key of D major, 4/4 time signature. The accompaniment consists of quarter and eighth notes.



No weap-on that's fash-ioned a-gainst us will stand,



The bat-tle be-longs to the Lord.



And we sing glo - ry, hon - or

Pow - er and strength to the Lord.

We sing glo - ry, hon - or,

Pow - er and strength to the Lord.

Musical notation for the first staff, treble clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some beamed eighth notes and a final quarter note with a fermata.

When the pow-er of dark-ness comes in like a flood,

Musical notation for the second staff, bass clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. The accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

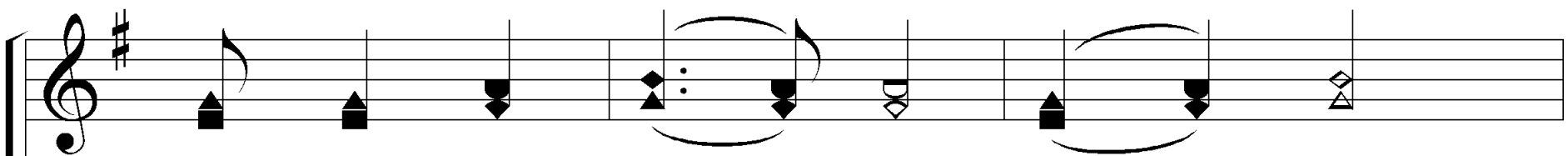
Musical notation for the third staff, treble clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes, ending with a quarter note and a fermata.

The bat-tle be-longs to the Lord.

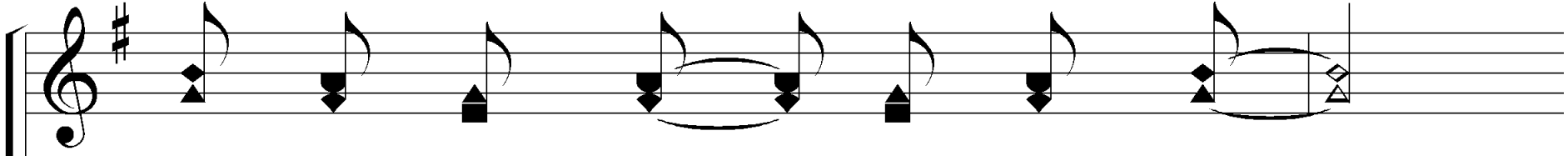
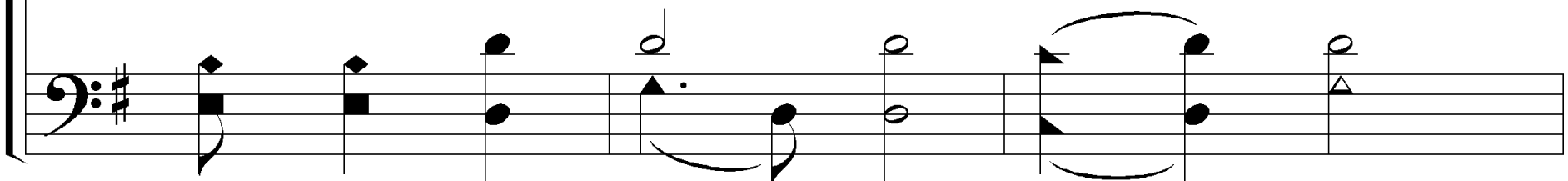
Musical notation for the fourth staff, bass clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. The accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand, ending with a quarter note and a fermata.

He's raised up a stand - ard, the pow'r of His blood,

The bat - tle be - longs to the Lord.



And we sing glo - ry, hon - or



Pow - er and strength to the Lord.



We sing glo - ry, hon - or,

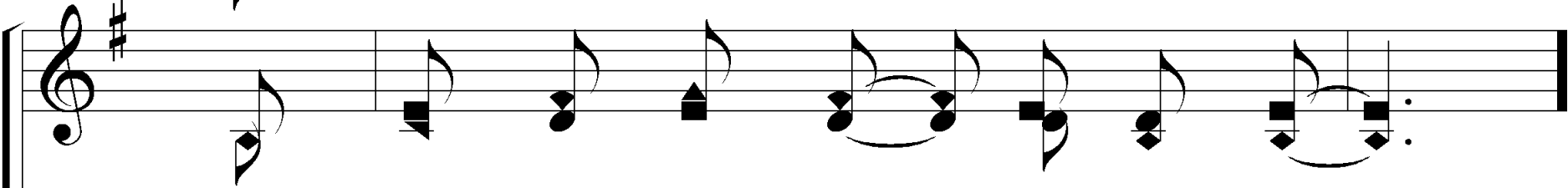
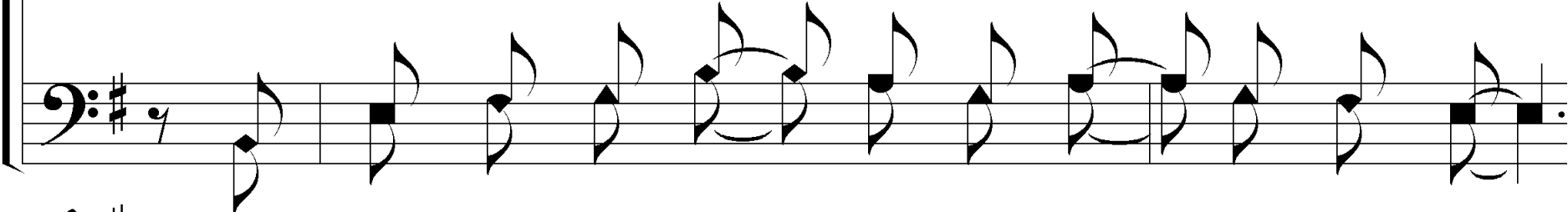
Pow - er and strength to the Lord.

When your en - e - my press - es in hard, do not fear,

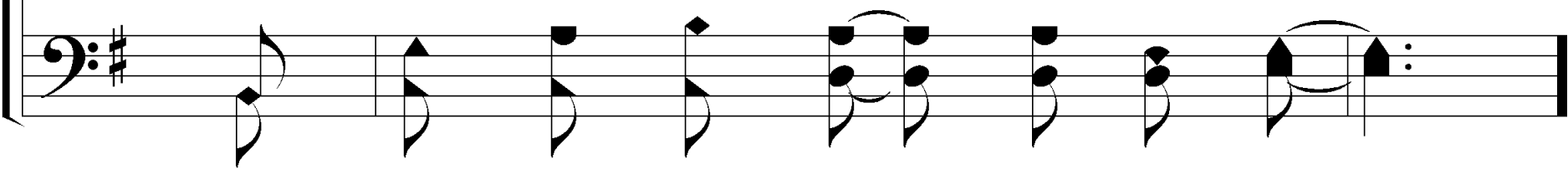
The bat - tle be - longs to the Lord.



Take cour-age, my friend, your re - demp - tion is near,



The bat - tle be - longs to the Lord.



And we sing glo - ry, hon - or

Pow - er and strength to the Lord.

We sing glo - ry, hon - or,

Pow - er and strength to the Lord.