

## **Group Time Sharing Questions**

### QUESTION 1:

In Revelation 11:1-10, after the death of the two witnesses, those who dwell on earth “make merry and exchange presents.” Similarly, Luke tells us that Pilate and Herod, who had formerly been enemies, became friends in their common purpose of killing Jesus (Luke 23:12). What are some ways in which contemporary forms of evil sometimes make unlikely “friendships” against the gospel? (Suggestion: Approach this question in light of some of the judges, lawyers, and politicians and their recent promotion of the same-sex agenda.)

### QUESTION 2:

Catholic tradition speaks at times of the “mystical body of Satan,” which is a reflection of the idea given by St. Paul in Ephesians 6:11-12, that the ultimate organizing principle behind opposition to Christ (and to his servants) is not human but demonic. This is also why John describes the persecution of the two witnesses as being led, not by political authorities, but by the “beast who ascends from the bottomless pit.”

Read Ephesians 6:11-18. How do we prepare ourselves for such spiritual warfare in practical terms? How can we take advantage of the grace of the sacraments in this undertaking?

### QUESTION 3:

Revelation 12 makes heavy use of what is known as “typology.” That is, it sees Old Testament images like the Ark of the Covenant pointing to New Testament realities like Mary. Can you give some other examples of the way in which New Testament writers see images of Jesus or of the Christian life in the events, people, places, and things of the Old Testament?

#### Web links

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/\\_INDEX.HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/_INDEX.HTM)

<http://www.catholic.org.tw/bible/index.htm>

<http://www.cathlinks.org/ccc-toc.htm>

<http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/ccc.html>

Q2	<p>Catholic tradition speaks at times of the “mystical body of Satan,” which is a reflection of the idea given by St. Paul in Ephesians 6:11-12, that the ultimate organizing principle behind opposition to Christ (and to his servants) is not human but demonic. This is also why John describes the persecution of the two witnesses as being led, not by political authorities, but by the “beast who ascends from the bottomless pit.”</p> <p>Read Ephesians 6:11-18. How do we prepare ourselves for such spiritual warfare in practical terms? How can we take advantage of the grace of the sacraments in this undertaking?</p>	
Ephesians 6:11-18	<p><b><sup>11</sup> Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens.</b> <sup>13</sup> Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground. <sup>14</sup> So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, <sup>15</sup> and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all (the) flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones</p>	<p>基督徒的全副武裝</p> <p><sup>11</sup>要穿上天主的全副武裝，為能抵抗魔鬼的陰謀，<sup>12</sup>因為我們戰鬥不是對抗血和肉，而是對抗率領者，對抗掌權者，對抗這黑暗世界的霸主，對抗天界裏邪惡的鬼神。<sup>13</sup>為此，你們應拿起天主的全副武裝，為使你們在邪惡的日子能夠抵得住，並在獲得全勝之後，仍屹立不動。<sup>14</sup>所以要站穩！用真理作帶，束起你們的腰，穿上正義作甲，<sup>15</sup>以和平的福音作準備走路的鞋，穿在腳上；<sup>16</sup>此外，還要拿起信德作盾牌，使你們能以此撲滅惡者的一切火箭；<sup>17</sup>並戴上救恩當盔，拿著聖神作利劍，即天主的話，<sup>18</sup>時時靠著聖神，以各種祈求和哀禱祈禱；且要醒寤不倦，為眾聖徒祈求，</p>

### ANSWER FOR QUESTION 1:

To help the participants to understand how the forces of evil sometimes join hands to attack the righteous people, as is the case in the death of the two witnesses in Revelation 11 and in Jesus' death. Using this understanding, the participants will appreciate better why it is that in defending traditional marriage the people of God find themselves battling the lawyers, the judges, the media, and the politicians – people who otherwise do not get along with each another in many other areas.

### ANSWER FOR QUESTION 2:

This is a follow up question to question 1: having understood the situation surrounding us, knowing now that what we are facing is not only a political fight but an orchestrated demonic attack on core Christian values, how do we prepare ourselves to fight the good fight? Ephesians 6:10-18 provides us with a list of weapons. Don't forget to make good use of the sacraments too.

### ANSWER FOR QUESTION 3:

The Old Testament books are full of typological images:

- Noah's ark – Church
- The flood – baptism
- Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac – The Father's sacrifice of the Son
- The ladder connecting heaven and earth – Jesus as the Mediator
- The Suffering Servant in Isaiah – Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross
- Etc.