

1. Last week I taught Rev 12:10-16 and when time expired we were about to begin an analysis of Rev 12:17.
2. Before continuing, I want to provide “1Jo 1:9 time” as may be necessary.
3. Before we continue the study of Satan as an accuser I want to give you an expanded translation of Rev 12:10-16.

Expanded Translation

Rev 12:10 I then heard a horrendous victorious shout which reverberated throughout the heavens: "Our God has shown His power of deliverance for His Kingdom has come! God's own Chosen One, the Christ, has shown His authority and inherent power. Satan who for ages has accused the brethren has been thrown out of heaven and never more permitted to return."

Rev 12:11 The poor Saints of the Tribulation faced now with a defeated and desperate Satan overcame his last intense though hopeless attacks, they were able to overcome by first a faith alone in Christ alone and then a total reliance on the grace of God as set forth in His Word. They were divinely selected and given power from above to suffer and ultimately to give up their lives in honor of their King Jesus.

Rev 12:12 The heavens themselves together with those living there rejoiced and lamented "Pity the earth and the sea, because the devil has been thrown out of heaven and he knows his time is short."

Rev 12:13 When Satan realized he had been defeated and cast out of heaven without any future recourse to heaven, he pursued with a vengeance true Israel for he was furious at her for giving birth to Jesus the Christ.

Rev 12:14 True Israel however was given an abundance of logistical grace and a hedge of fire for protection, so she might be hurried away to the various places of protection prepared for her not only in the south of Palestine but in various client nations and there to remain in safety out of Satan's reach.

Rev 12:15 Satan, realizing his predicament then set in motion a series of world events designed to eliminate true Israel; battles raged in Palestine as nations from all over the world began to ravage the once peaceful land of Israel.

Rev 12:16 Many places of refuge were discovered by the Jewish believers in the south of Palestine and many believing Saints found refuge in Gentile lands who exercised their national prerogatives by refusing to "kowitz" to the world's international favorite, an indwelt Antichrist.

4. Now let's look at our last verse of chapter twelve.

KJV

Rev 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

NIV

Rev 12:17 Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring--those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

1. The last verse of chapter 12 states that the dragon is especially angry with those within the nation Israel who "keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."
2. While the program of Satan is against the Jewish race in total, there is a double antagonism against those Jews who turn to Christ as their Messiah.
3. No doubt many of them will suffer a martyr's death, however a remnant of believers will survive. The remnant will include believing Jews and Gentiles.
4. There are those who have attempted to build a distinction between the woman in verse 14 as Israel in Palestine and the remnant in verse 17 as Israel elsewhere in the world. There does not seem to be sufficient evidence to make this distinction.
5. Rather than a geographic contrast, the difference seems to be between the nation as a whole symbolized by the woman and the godly remnant in the nation who turn to Christ.
6. Taken as a whole, chapter 12 is a fitting introduction to the important revelations given in chapter 13.

Revelation Chapter Thirteen Introduction

1. Two dreadful rulers enter the scene in chapter 13, one coming up out of the sea, and the other coming up out of the earth. Swete has written: "The sea here is undoubtedly "a symbol of the agitated surface of unregenerate humanity, and especially of the seething cauldron of national and social life out of which the great historical movements of the world arise."
2. The sea as we have earlier seen has a consistent metaphoric meaning, i.e., gentiles or nations; so we can assume the Antichrist will be a gentile and the false prophet a Jew.

2.1 The first beast, whose horns and crowns of royalty represent power, is himself energized by Satan. It is almost unbelievable that the whole earth will worship both the dragon and the beast.

3. There will be much religion on earth, but it will be godless and blasphemous. This first beast is against God. He is energized and indwelt by Satan; he is militarily supreme; he possesses world-wide power and he persecutes the Saints of God. The question is how can he rise so rapidly to power? To answer that men have for years conjectured; their imaginations have in fact run wild.

4. The first seal "the man on the white horse" must come rapidly to power and to do that it would seem there must be some huge problem that he alone can solve. The peace and safety temporarily accomplished in the first half of Daniel's 70th week will likely be ushered in by the coming world leader - no doubt because he will solve some major global disturbance.

5. Although the employment of peace as a part of his plan will certainly reassure the masses and help to quiet the nonconformists, this peace will prove to be false and relatively short-lived. Ultimately, the result of his "peace plan" will be the death and destruction of many.

6. The question many have pondered, what kind of catastrophe or global disruption will precede the unification and false peace brought by the coming world leader? Of course the number of possible scenarios is endless and as earlier mentioned, many have conjectured.

7. Assuming the rapture occurs before I finish tonight, the old Antichrist himself would have a field day solving the terrorist problem and bringing Israel and the 30,000,000 Arabs surrounding them into "peaceful relations." Jews have already dwindled in population to only 13 million and the Arab League has swelled to over 250 million.

8. His work might also include a peace treaty not only between Israel, Syria, the PLO, Jordan, Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, etc. but all Islam, Judaism and Christianity might join into a global unity pact and live in perfect harmony for 1260 days—one half of the seven year Tribulation.

9. Some have suggested that a global economic collapse or war in the Middle East will necessitate the Antichrist's arrival. Others suggest a global environmental crisis as the source of unification. Still others suggest that it will be some novel explanation of the Rapture of the Church.

9.1 Chuck Missler, author of *Cosmiccodes* has researched the UFO, alien sightings, and alien abduction phenomena noting that most of the people claiming alien contact are practitioners of the occult. Missler makes the case that alien abductions will be Satan's way of explaining the Rapture.

9.2 Missler has also postulated that a serious threat from outer space might be just the global problem needed to vault the Antichrist onto center stage; the assumption by Missler is that the Antichrist would somehow solve this threat from "space." He writes:

"On September 21, 1987, President Reagan, in his address to the 42nd General Assembly of the United Nations, made a startling statement regarding the unifying effect of an alien threat. 'Perhaps we need some outside, universal threat to make us recognize this common bond I occasionally think how quickly our differences world-wide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from outside this world.' And yet, I ask you, is not an alien force already among us?"

10. Henry Kissinger in 1992 stated:

"Today Americans would be outraged if UN troops entered Los Angeles to restore order; tomorrow they will be grateful! This is especially true if they were told there was an outside threat from beyond, whether real or promulgated, that threatened our very existence. It is then that all peoples of the world will pledge with world leaders to deliver them from this evil. The one thing every man fears is the unknown. When presented with this scenario, individual rights will be willingly relinquished for the guarantee of their well-being granted to them by their world government."

11. Whatever the global malady, I think it will be severe and quickly solved by none other than an indwelt Antichrist. Let's take a look at what kind of catastrophe led to the acquisition of power in a single man called Caesar. Let's see how the citizens of Rome became so enamored that they ultimately worshiped Caesar as god. By doing this perhaps we can better understand how the Antichrist will rise to power and become the ultimate "Theocrat" ruling a Revived Roman Empire. A quote from history will suffice as a starter:

"The streets of our country are in turmoil; the universities are filled with students rebelling and rioting; Communists are seeking to destroy our country, and the Republic is in danger yes, danger from within and without. We need law and order! Without law and order our nation cannot survive!"

11.1 Who do you think uttered these words?

11.2 The words were spoken in 1932 by Adolf Hitler, then leader of the National Socialist Party demanding swift and powerful government action! Dictators rarely take over nations by brute force. Almost always political or economic problems pave the way for tyranny. Hitler was elected overwhelmingly by the German people. He slowly took away the freedoms of the populist who elected him.

12. Even the leaders of the notorious Roman Empire did not at first exercise dictatorial power over their subjects. The nations conquered by Rome were customarily ruled by local dignitaries. Only the later Caesars played God over the people. How did the Roman Empire lead to such a power accumulation in one man? What led to the ultimate outrage of Caesar worship?

12.1 When the Roman Empire first started taking over provinces, the conquered people felt indebted to Rome for the law and order which it provided. The smaller countries in particular were grateful for the new found stability which replaced their once-shaky political structures. In a number of cases, obnoxious little tyrants were replaced by temperate Roman rulers. So the people were "happy."

12.2 But, as historian Arnold Toynbee wisely pointed out, "it's hard to worship an impersonal system! Eventually, therefore, the Roman subjects conceived the idea of emperor worship." The first recorded case of emperor worship in the Roman Empire took place in Pergamum in 29 B.C. Here the local citizens erected the first known statue of a Roman Caesar.

12.3 But full blown Caesar worship took a number of years to develop. The first Caesars to be worshipped were actually somewhat embarrassed by all the public attention. Later Caesars, however, came to realize the important advantages of accepting public veneration. What the Roman Senate was looking for was some strong unifying principle something that would bind the entire Empire together.

12.4 The mandating of Caesar worship seemed to be the answer. So late in the first century A.D. the worshiping of Caesar (whichever one happened to be ruling at the time!) became an official government requirement. At first the edict wasn't taken very seriously, but later, under Domitian, every Roman subject was expected to comply with the order. Once a year each person had to appear before an official "priest" and swear his allegiance to Caesar. The oath would be witnessed by a signed certificate and would also often be accompanied by an animal sacrifice.

12.5 Caesar worship was once a kind of an inside joke among the government leaders, but it soon turned into a Frankenstein-like monster.

12.5.1 Nero came to believe that he actually was God in the flesh. Other Caesars had self-delusions almost as strong as Nero's. The whole episode turned out to be a nightmare for the Christians and Jews.

12.6 For most of the subjects of Rome, Caesar worship was nothing more than an annoyance. In some cases it simply added another "god" to their list of deities. But for the Christians the picture was entirely different.

12.7 So these early Christians refused to swear allegiance to Caesar, and instead developed a little chant: "Jesus Christ is Lord, and none other." Secret disciples abounded and the Ichthus sign became their secret escutcheon. In no time at all Christians were labeled as traitors. Soon the Romans invented a clever way to dispose of these "traitors to the Empire" feed them to the lions!

12.8 And so the Coliseum games began to feature half-time shows of lion feedings, with whole families of devoted believers as "one-time guest stars!" It's really a sickening tale of disgrace for the Romans. The blood ran so freely that to this day the floor of the Coliseum is stained with the blood of the saints.

13. Now remember how all this got started: nations in political or economic turmoil succumbed to the seemingly "benevolent" tentacles of a powerful central government. For a short time there was unprecedented peace, justice, and order. The leader of this "domestic tranquility" then came to be deified by many of his subjects. Then the leader took the veneration of his citizens to heart and proclaimed himself as the absolute and infallible monarch of the world.

13.1 Nazi Germany replayed the drama of dictatorship in the '30's and '40's. In 1930 Germany was in desperate financial straits. Inflation was so severe that thousands of people were virtually starving. No one seemed able to create order out of the confusion. Germany was on the verge of collapse and suddenly onto the stage of history came a type of Antichrist - Adolph Hitler.

13.2 Actually Adolf Hitler was something of a savior at first. The rioting stopped, men started working, people started eating, and Mr. Porsche designed the first Volkswagen! Most important of all, every citizen had a new sense of national purpose and pride. Now their Fuhrer would lead them into the millennium of the Third Reich!

14. Does all this sound similar to what we have learned about the Antichrist? After all there is nothing new under the sun and the spirit of the Antichrist has always been in the world. Most people have no idea that the key to history is the Bible. What a tragedy.

14.1 Hegel, a 17th century German philosopher said, "History teaches us that man learns nothing from history." The Caesars and Adolf Hitler were but 'choir boys' when compared with the dictator who will take over the world during the Tribulation.

15. Given the imminent nature of the Rapture I believe that the Antichrist lives right now somewhere in Europe, inflaming his soul with visions of what he will be able to do for mankind with all his grand schemes and revolutionary ideas.

16. A biographical sketch of this man appears in chapter thirteen. He is called by various names in the Bible. Here are just a few: Little Horn (Daniel 7:8; 8:9); Man of Sin, Son of Perdition (2Th 2:3) Antichrist (1Jo 2:18); Beast (Rev 13:1)

Dan 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Dan 8:9 And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land.

2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

1Jo 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

Rev 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

17. The Antichrist will be a supreme humanist, believing passionately that man can solve his own dilemmas. He will not accept the Bible's evaluation that man is on the verge of chaos because of sin.

17.1 In fact, He will no doubt react violently to groups and individuals who analyze man's problem as sin. He will feel that he is doing a good thing by bringing repressive measures against believers, whom he will consider "non-progressives."

17.2 This Antichrist will be against every solution the Bible presents for the world's problems and because He will be so persuasive He will turn the whole world against Christ and the believers and convince many that he has the answers to the human dilemma.

17.3 Is the Antichrist near? Who knows for sure, all we can declare with certainty is that the stage is set and the time is right in the sense that there are no signs yet to occur before the Rapture. The imminence of the Rapture is declared in more than one place in Scripture but clearly Paul believed such was the case. 1Th 4:16-17

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18. Let's take a look at Rev 13:1-2.

KJV

Rev 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

Rev 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

NIV

Rev 13:1 And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

Rev 13:2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

1. The Antichrist is called a "beast" because that's what he is in the sight of God; a ruthless, unfeeling dictator.
2. His true, ruthless nature is exposed in the latter part of the Tribulation period, even though at the beginning he appears to be a sweet caring benevolent leader.
3. Why does the Beast emerge from the sea? John explains the figure in Rev 17:15. "The waters which you saw ... are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues."
4. In Biblical usage the ocean pictures the restless strivings of the nations of the world. As Isaiah put it in Isa 57:20, "The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt."

5. It's from the chaos of the nations that the Antichrist will rise. As brilliant as he is, notice where the Antichrist gets his power: "The dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority." Rev 13:2

5.1 During the Tribulation, God will allow Satan to give the Antichrist tremendous supernatural ability. So great will be the Antichrist's influence over people that every "tribe and people and tongue and nation" will yield to his sway. For the first time in the history of the world Satan will get what he's been after all these years worldwide worship by earth's people!

6. What do the ten horns with crowns represent? In the Bible horns almost always represent political power just as the sea represent gentiles or nations. In this case the beast's ten horns picture ten nations that will form a confederacy which the beast will rule during the Tribulation. Daniel elaborates on this in Daniel chapters 7 and 8.

7. The symbolism in Daniel's prophecies is rather elaborate as we have seen, but the point he makes is that four successive world empires would rise and fall (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and the First Roman Empire).

8. Early in the Tribulation ten nations will emerge from the ancient peoples and culture of the first Roman, empire. They will quickly form a tight confederation that will become a sovereign political unit. At this point a scintillating personality will rise to world prominence and be proclaimed the head of the newly formed confederacy.

9. Daniel reveals in prophecy that this confederacy would be Gentile power that would acquire worldwide control through its economic and military strength and of course the actions of its expert leader. Many believe this will be a European confederacy powerful enough to make this new confederation the nucleus of a one-world government.

10. The Antichrist of Revelation 13 is going to be that leader.

11. Dr. Saul Mendlovitz, professor of international law at Rutgers University has written, "It is no longer a question of whether or not there will one day be a world government."

11.1 Dr. Mendlovitz went on to write that there was a strong possibility of a complete and violent breakdown of world civilization soon to come, and that the most likely kind of government to evolve would be an oligarchical and repressive world government run by technocratic elites.

11.2 A "technocratic elite" seems to be an accurate description of this predicted world leader referred to by the Apostle John as the Beast. He will be a political genius; a political giant of brilliance unparalleled in the history of man.

11.3 By reconstructing a world government out of the ruins of the ancient Roman Empire, the Antichrist will have accomplished what no one else has been able to do since A.D. 476, the year the First Roman Empire crumbled. Since that fall many have tried to reconstruct a world empire.

- Charlemagne tried to put it together but failed. Napoleon did his best, but met his Waterloo!
- Bismarck dreamed of making Germany the capital of a Revived Roman Empire.
- England took their shot and then blew it with their rejection of the Balfour Declaration.
- Then Hitler came along. He envisioned the Mediterranean Sea as a German lake and the whole world as his empire. He saw himself as the Caesar of the "Third Reich."

12. Fruitless were the efforts of these nations to reconstruct that which only God will permit and only in God's timing and that being after the Rapture of the Church.

13. Quoting John Walvoord "As earlier noted in the first ten verses of chapter thirteen, a character of central importance to the events of the great tribulation is effectively reintroduced. This passage is first of all a revelation of the Revived Roman Empire in its period of world-wide dominion but more especially this paragraph directs attention to the evil character who exercises Satanic power as the world dictator."

14. Let me summarize our study of Rev 13:1-2:

14.1 The identity of the beast is quite clear in its reference to the Revived Roman Empire, as the description is similar to that found in Dan 7:7-8, Rev 12:3; Rev 17:3, 7.

Dan 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

Dan 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Rev 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

Rev 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Rev 17:7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

14.2 The stage of the empire depicted by the beast is the period after the emergence of the little horn, the future world ruler displacing three of the horns.

Dan 7:8 "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

14.3 The description fits the time of the empire during the great tribulation. The fact that the beast rises out of the sea is taken by many to indicate that he comes from the great mass of humanity, namely the gentile peoples of the world.

14.4 Others take it as a reference to the Mediterranean, namely, that the beast will arise from the Mediterranean area. Probably both are true in that the beast is a gentile and does come from the Mediterranean scene.

14.5 The monstrosity of seven heads and ten horns probably refers to the remnants of the confederacy which formed the Roman Empire in the beginning, namely, the ten nations of which three were overthrown by the little horn of Dan 7:8.

14.6 The ten crowns, therefore, refer to the diadems as symbols of governmental authority. The fact that they have the names of blasphemy ("names" is properly plural) indicates their blasphemous opposition to God and to Christ.

14.7 Some consider the seven heads as successive phases of governmental and political history during this period. Others believe that they are simultaneous kings who are sub-rulers under the beast.

14.8 The successive idea seems to be borne out by Rev 17:10-12 where the heads are indicated to be successive rulers. The difficulty can be resolved by regarding the heads as successive, referring to kings or emperors, and the horns as kings who will reign independently at first but will later receive their power from the beast.

End Lesson Taught 5-17-2017

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