

1. Last week I taught Rev 13:11-12 and when time expired we were about to review the power of world-wide Ecumenicalism after the Rapture.
2. Before continuing, I want to provide “1Jo 1:9 time” as may be necessary.
3. Let’s first take a look at an expanded translation of Rev 13:11-12.

Expanded Translation

Rev 13:11 Then I saw a Second Beast, coming out of the earth; he was a Jew. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. The two horns were symbolic of his ambivalent nature; he was as sweet as sugar at first but later took on the nature of the meanest junk yard dog ever.

Rev 13:12 He was given power and authority to speak and act on behalf of the Antichrist, in fact he made certain the earth and its inhabitants worshiped the Antichrist, the same world leader whose fatal wound had been healed.

4. Basically the Second Beast will be similar to the first one. He will have the same scintillating personality, the same tireless dynamism and the same oratorical finesse as the First Beast.
5. As noted in Rev 13:11, the False Prophet has two “uncrowned horns.”
6. What kind of power do these two horns symbolize? Not political, since the ten federated governments of the Tribulation are pictured by the ten crowned horns of the First Beast symbolizing political kingdoms.
7. Our Second Beast wields religious power, and for that reason he is also called "the False Prophet." He will amalgamate all religious systems into one counterfeit one.
8. The two horns of the False Prophet seem to represent His claims of being the Messiahs’ forerunner. (Mal 4:5-6)

Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

Mal 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

8.1 The Antichrist will try to be like the Lamb, a façade of the real Lamb, Jesus Christ. Millions of people, will fall for his deception and sincerely believe his side-kick the False Prophet is the long awaited reincarnated Elijah.

9. There will be a large underground church where many believers will follow the colors to the high ground. Each believer will have a distinguishing mark visible only to other believers. As you may recall from our earlier study a protected 144,000 Jewish evangelist will have a productive world-wide evangelical ministry.

9.1 There will be many supernatural signs provided by God to capture the attention of those pondering “who, whom or what shall I believe?” Certainly not the least of which will be those performed by the reincarnated Moses and Elijah.

10. Now for new material and a study of the potential power of “Ecumenicalism after the Rapture.”

11. Ecumenicalism will lead the way after the Rapture. Recall Paul's admonishment to the church at Thessalonica. 1Th 2:1-8

12. You might ask: how can the Antichrist and his side-kick, the False Prophet come to power so quickly. There must be some terrible event in need of solving like the Isis crisis so obvious today or perhaps some other crisis of world-wide proportions.

13. Chuck Missler has, as earlier noted, written in his book *Cosmiccodes*:

"We believe that the cultural preparation ... of the world to view our alien visitors as powerful and highly evolved saviors makes the UFO phenomenon the perfect motif for the Antichrist to exploit when he ascends to power. His ability to perform supernatural signs and wonders, his comprehensive plan for the peaceful unification of mankind, and his connection to or origin from god-like alien entities will engender the masses to follow him into the biggest deception in history."

14. No one really knows the answer as to how or what precipitates the rise to power of our “dynamic duo.” Keep in mind an explanation of the Rapture will certainly be demanded by “the inquiring minds of a world full of only unbelievers.”

15. Whatever the impetus, the two beasts will provide an answer. We could conjecture until hell freezes over and probably not arrive at the specific answer which will satisfy the unbelieving world.

15.1 After all is said and done, Satan will have accomplished one of the most fiendish deceptions of all times, a blasphemous imitation of the return of Elijah and Christ's Second Advent!

16. Let's stick with what we do know.

17. By the time the First Beast tackles the problem of explaining the missing hundreds of thousands of “crazy Christians,” apostasy will prevail and the world leader (the First Beast) will sanction world-wide ecumenicalism.

18. Apostasy will at first prevail and then onto the scene of history come the 144,000 sealed Jewish evangelists and their “wonder working power.”

19. Our subject is not the 144,000 but rather we are exposing one of the two instigators of the problem, the Second Beast. Let’s see what Hal Lindsey has written about the two Satan indwelt leaders.

20. Hal Lindsey is one who believes: “... the First Beast will proclaim himself as God; ... the Second Beast will masquerade as the Messiah and ... the liberated demons will imitate the power of the Holy Spirit!”

20.1 As you know Lindsey’s views are not totally my views: it is my view the Antichrist claims to be the Messiah and the False Prophet claims to be Elijah.”

21. Lindsey goes on to write:

“What a test for the discernment of the Tribulation believers! Though the False Prophet is a religious specialist he will have just as much power as the First Beast.”

22. Here are seven things that the False Prophet is said to do:

22.1 he exercises unlimited authority (verse 12)

22.2 he forces people to worship the Roman Antichrist (verse 12)

Rev 13:12 And he exerciseth all the power of the First Beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the First Beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

22.3 he performs great miracles (verse 13)

Rev 13:13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

22.4 he deceives the population (verse 14)

22.5 he forces people to worship the Antichrist's image in the Temple (verse 14)

Rev 13:14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

22.6 he murders many nonconformists (verse 15)

Rev 13:15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

22.7 he forces people to receive "the mark of the Beast" (verse 16)

Rev 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

23. Recall in verse fourteen we have mention of the "healing" of the mortal wound, no doubt given its contextual placement the False Prophet will be the source of the resuscitation.

24. Before we leave verses eleven and twelve, let me give you an expanded translation:

Expanded Translation

Rev 13:11 Then I saw a Second Beast, coming out of the earth; he was a Jew. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. The two horns were symbolic of his ambivalent nature; he was as sweet as sugar at first but later took on the nature of the meanest junk yard dog ever.

Rev 13:12 He was given power and authority to speak and act on behalf of the Antichrist, in fact he made certain the earth and its inhabitants worshiped the Antichrist, the same world leader whose fatal wound had been healed.

25. Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 13:13 and 14:

KJV

Rev 13:13 And he (*the False Prophet*) doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

Rev 13:14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

NIV

Rev 13:13 And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men.

Rev 13:14 Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the First Beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

1. What kind of "great miracles" does the False Prophet perform? An example is given in verse 13 ... "even causing fire to come down from heaven."

2. Through Satanic power he makes fire streak from the sky to the earth in the sight of astonished onlookers.

3. Through this and other spectacular miracles the False Prophet will convince most men that he is sent from God. Satan knows all too well what kind of showmanship will impress the curious crowds!

4. That's why we have to be extra alert in our present generation. We see "miracles" all around us, but not everything that is miraculous is from God. Please recall our study of Bishop Pike, a very religious man holding a position of church leadership.

2Co 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ

2Co 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

2Co 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according.

Mat 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Mat 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

5. In Dr. Unger's book, *The Mystery of Bishop Pike* (Tyndale), he repeatedly documented evidence of supernatural phenomena performed by demons.

6. Let's return to a study of the miracles of the False Prophet in a little more detail.

7. The first miracle accomplished by the false prophet is described as a great wonder, literally, one of many "great signs."

8. The frequent use of **Poieo** in the present tense seems to indicate repeated action, of which fire coming down from heaven in the sight of men is a recurring illustration.

9. The miracle may be an imitation of Pentecost (Acts 2:3), or it may be regarded as similar to Elijah's miracles (2Ki 1:10-12), or to the destructive fire coming out of the mouths of the two witnesses (Rev 11:5).

Acts 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

2Ki 1:10 And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

2Ki 1:11 Again also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him, O man of God, thus hath the king said, Come down quickly.

2Ki 1:12 And Elijah answered and said unto them, If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

Rev 11:5 And if any man will hurt Moses and Elijah, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

10. It is obvious that the Second Beast is associated with the First Beast in a religious way in that his miracles and activities tend to cause men to worship the image of the First Beast.

11. Given our extensive review at our last two sessions, I believe we can wrap up the study of Rev 13:13-18 with an expanded translation.

Expanded Translation

Rev 13:13 And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men.

Rev 13:14 Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the First Beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

Rev 13:15 He was given power to give breath to the image of the First Beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

Rev 13:16 He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead.

Rev 13:17 so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.

Rev 13:18 Here is wisdom. The wise man will understand and learn from the number assigned in this book to the Antichrist - 666. The entire Book of The Revelation is a portrait of man as inferior to God even when under the direct influence and control of Satan himself. The Book has a theme: a perfect God, His number being 777 versus an inferior Satan whose number is 666.

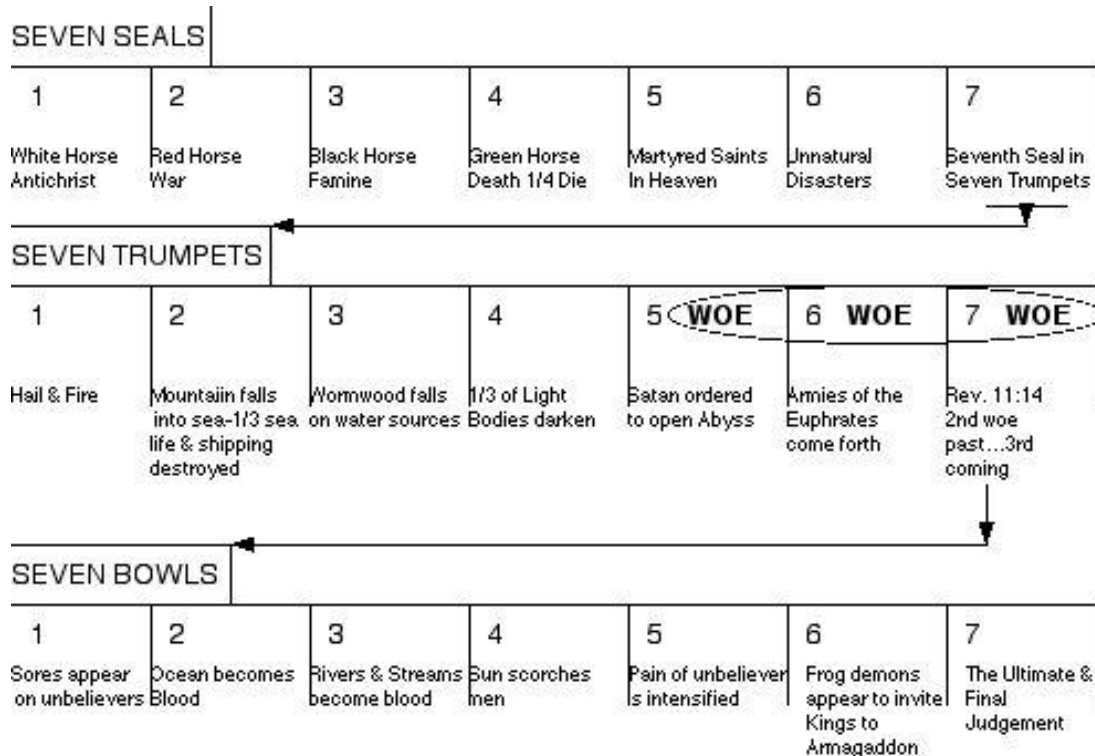
12. We are now ready for a study of Revelation Chapter Fourteen.

Chapter Fourteen Introduction:

1. Chapter 14 is related to chapters 12 and 13.

2. Chapter 12 deals with the important characters of the period in summary fashion, chapter 13 with the wicked rulers of the period, and chapter 14 with the ultimate triumph of Christ.

3. All of this material is not chronological but prepares the way for the climax which begins in chapter 15 when the seven last plagues are cast upon the earth. Let's again review a chart of the seals, the trumpets and the bowls of wrath.



4. There are 20 verses in the chapter and verses 14-20 deal with Christ's victorious return. Chapter 14 consists of a series of pronouncements and visions assuring the reader of the ultimate triumph of Christ and the judgment of the wicked.
5. Much of the chapter is prophetic of events that have not yet taken place, but which are now impending.
6. The chapter begins with the assurance that the Lamb will ultimately stand in triumph on Mount Zion with his followers, and it concludes with a series of pronouncements of judgments upon the wicked.
7. We can best think of verses one through five as a prophetic cameo of short scenes that will take place at the end of the Tribulation.
8. The theme that binds all the scenes together is Christ's ultimate triumph over all the forces of evil that run rampant during the Tribulation.
9. Revelation twelve was a preamble to the Tribulation with emphasis on characters, Revelation thirteen described the Antichrist and the False Prophet and now chapter fourteen presents a refreshing interlude.
10. Here we will see the adoration of the Lamb by his "sheep" on the pasture of Mount Zion; the bucolic calm of the scene provides welcome relief to the flashes of lightning and thunder which accompanied the angry judgments of God in prior and future chapters.
11. Now let's see what we can learn from verses one through five.

KJV

Rev 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Rev 14:2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

Rev 14:3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

Rev 14:4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

Rev 14:5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

NIV

Rev 14:1 Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

Rev 14:2 And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps.

Rev 14:3 And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

Rev 14:4 These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb.

Rev 14:5 No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

1. The chapter begins in the KJV with the unusual phrase used several times previously: "And I looked, and, lo."

1.1 This expression, which could also be translated "And I saw, and, behold," introduces the vision of the Lamb standing on Mount Zion accompanied by 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

2. We are faced with a number of important decisions regarding this passage; certainly one of the more important, what is the meaning of Mount Zion?

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