

Doctrine of the False Prophet

KJV

Rev 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

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.

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Rev 13:11 Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon.

Rev 13:12 He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.

Principles

1. After the revelation of the first beast--the Antichrist, John now beholds another beast coming up out of the earth and occupying a secondary role supporting the activities of the first beast.
2. In contrast to the Antichrist who comes out of the sea, the second beast is said to come out of the earth. He is of a similar nature as the first beast.
3. The same word earlier used to describe the first beast (from the Greek **Therion**) is again found; the word "another" is a translation from the Greek **Allos** meaning "one like in kind."
4. Though some have interpreted the word earth as referring to the Holy Land, it is the general word for the earth; a translation from the Greek **Ge**.
5. If the sea, mentioned as the source of the first beast, represents the first beast as a Gentile, the reference to the second beast as coming out of the earth indicates he is a Jew. The second beast is none other than the False Prophet.
6. The earth usually means Israel and therefore this character is most likely a Jew and Satan's facade of Elijah, the Messianic forerunner.
7. This position is not universally accepted. For example Wycliffe writes:
"His geographic origin and his racial connection are not mentioned. He is pictured, however, as having two horns like a lamb and as speaking like a dragon."
7.1 Wycliffe believes it is possible the False Prophet is a Jew, but such is not a certainty.

8. The description of our second beast as a lamb seems to indicate that he has a religious character, a conclusion supported by his being named a prophet. This would seem to support the conclusion that the False Prophet is a Jew.

9. His speaking as a dragon indicates that he is motivated by the power of Satan who is "the dragon."

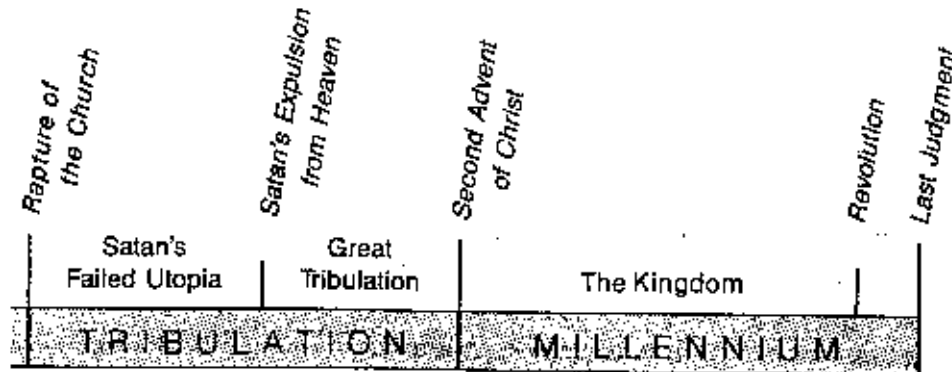
10. As a supporting character to the first beast, he is active on behalf of the first beast and exercises his authority.

10.1 Verse 12 is better translated, "He exerts [Greek **Poieo**, 'to do' or 'to exercise'] all the authority of the first beast in his presence."

11. Using his Satanic power, the False Prophet causes (Greek **Poieo**) many to worship the first beast whose wound unto death was healed (Rev 13:3).

Rev 13:3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.

12. There are those who believe the second beast is the head of the apostate world-wide nominal Christian church during the first half of Daniel's seventieth week.



12.1 I don't subscribe to this position but rather believe he leads the Jewish church which worships in the faux temple.

13. With the rise of the first beast to a place of worldwide dominion, the apostate church is destroyed according to Rev 17:16, and the worship of the whole world is directed to the beast out of the sea--the Antichrist.

Rev 17:16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

14. The second beast, however, survives the destruction of this church and he assists the beast in making the transition.

15. Facilitating this change into the final form of apostate religion, the beast out of the earth causes men to worship the first beast.

16. The identification of the second beast as the head of some apostate church is indicated in many ways in the book of the Revelation, but there is little to support the position that he heads up the universal ecumenical "nominal Christian church" referred to as the Babylonian whore Church with its headquarters in Rome.

17. It is obvious that he 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 (compare Rev 13:13-17).

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.

18. It is also clear that he shares prominence and leadership with the first beast throughout the Great Tribulation and then at the end both are cast alive into the lake of fire (Rev 19:20).

Rev 19:20 But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

18.1 The head of the whore church however would seem to have met his demise at the same time his church falls prey to the whims of Satan's Roman political leader--the Antichrist.

19. Alford's extensive remarks, though in part contrary to much of that which we have seen, are worthy of mention.

"It may be well to premise a few remarks, tending to the right understanding of this portion of the prophecy.

“1) These two beasts are identical as to genus: they are both **Theria**, ravaging powers, hostile to God's ... fold.

“2) They are diverse in origin. The former came up out of the sea, that is, if we go back to the symbolism of Daniel, was an empire, rising up out of confusion into order and life: the latter comes out of the earth: i.e., we may not unreasonably say, arises out of human society and its progress: which as interpreted by the context, will import its origin and gradual development during the reign and progress of the secular empire denoted by the former beast.

“3) The second beast is, in its zeal and action, entirely subsidiary to the first. It wields its authority, works miracles in its support, causes men to make and to worship its image, nay, itself is lost in the splendor and importance of the other.

“4) An important distinction exists between the two beasts, in that this second one has two horns like a lamb. In other words, this second beast puts on a mild and lamb like appearance, which the other did not. But it speaks as a dragon: its words, which carry its real character, are fierce and unrelenting: while it professes that which is gentle, its behests are cruel. And now I may appeal to the reader, whether all these requisites do not meet in that great wasting Power which arose, not out of anarchy and conquest but out of men's daily life and habits, out of and in the presence of the last form of the secular power, which was the Empire of Pagan Rome; I mean ... persecuting power, which, gentle in its aspect and professions, was yet cruel in its actions, which did all the deeds of the Empire, in its presence, which kept up its image, its laws, its formulae, its privileges; which, coming in as it did by a corrupt and ambitious priesthood, deceived by its miracles the dwellers on earth, and by them maintained the image of the despotic secular power. Surely it is this Latin Christianity, in its ecclesiastical-secular form, not identical with, but as preparing the way for, the great apostasy...”

20. Walvoord writes:

"Although the primary reference of this passage is to the period just prior to the second advent, it is foreshadowed undoubtedly in history as Alford indicates. While resisting the historical school of interpretation, Alford is nevertheless unduly influenced by it."

21. There are various and well thought opinions as to who the first and second beast represent themselves to be, if indeed such an overt representation is stated and published during the Tribulation.

22. As already seen there are those who think the False Prophet, our second beast, is the leader of the nominal world Christian church headquartered in Rome.

22.1 This I think we can reject out of hand, not so much from a specific Scripture but more from the context and sequence of events earlier seen.

22.2 In Revelation chapter seventeen we find the Antichrist and False Prophet both rejecting and destroying the "world Christian whore church" in the middle of the Tribulation thus again refuting the identification of the second beast as the head of the Roman church.

22.3 Nevertheless, as I have repeatedly stated, chronology of that occurring in the Tribulation is difficult at best.

23. There are those, who believe the Antichrist purports himself to be God and the False Prophet purports himself to be the Messiah.

23.1 Such could hardly be supported in Scripture and thus it is difficult to believe Jews and Gentiles using the Bible, as even a tacit source, would believe such a story.

23.2 Even the most casual student would find such allegations specious.

23.3 No doubt orthodox Jewry would hardly believe such a preposterous scenario.

24. The more likely scenario would be the Antichrist will purport to be the Messiah and the False Prophet will purport to be Elijah.

25. Despite the merciless, sweeping tyranny of the first beast (the Roman Antichrist), Satan will not be content to stop there.

26. He will raise-up a conspirator who is an even more ruthless tyrant because he will enslave the minds and souls of men.

27. 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.

28. Hal Lindsey has written:

"He will also have the same Satanic powers. But there will be some differences too. While the first Beast emerged from the sea (the unrest of troubled nations) the second Beast emerges from the land. When the Bible uses the word "land" symbolically, it usually refers to the land that belongs to Israel. So the second Beast will come from the region of the Middle East, and I believe he will be a Jew."

29. As noted in our verse eleven, like the first beast, the second one wears horns. However, the second beast has only two "uncrowned horns" (not ten crowned ones, as the first beast-- Antichrist).

30. 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 and diadems (the word used for crowns in describing the crowns of the Antichrist's kingdom) symbolize political kingdoms.

31. Our second beast wields religious power, and for that reason he is also called "the False Prophet" as we noted in Rev 19:20. He will, after the destruction of organized religion) amalgamate all religious systems into one counterfeit one.

Rev 19:20 But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

32. His two horns would seem to describe his character. He is sweet as honey but rapacious as a hungry lion.

33. Millions of people will fall for his deception and sincerely believe this False Prophet is the forerunner Elijah reincarnated. He is the great interloper, the master of compromise and ultimate reconciler of world religions.

34. Certainly, the World Council of Churches together with the National Council of Churches is already hard at work merging various religions together.

34.1 You may say "but that is crazy there is no way." And today you are absolutely right because of the restraining ministry of God the Holy Spirit who resides in you and me.

34.2 But after the Rapture of the church when the Holy Spirit leaves with us, the sweetness and light crowd will immediately prevail and one-worldism will be the order of the day.

34.3 Ecumenicalism will lead the way.

34.3.1 Recall Paul's admonishment to the Thessalonians.

2Th 2:1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers,

2Th 2:2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come.

2Th 2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

2Th 2:4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

2Th 2:5 Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?

2Th 2:6 And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time.

2Th 2:7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

2Th 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

2Th 2:9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,

35. By the time the two beasts tackle the problem, liberal Judaism will probably be ready to join the merger since the true doctrine about Jesus Christ will suddenly disappear (after the Rapture) but only to be later revived in spades.

36. Apostasy will at first prevail and then onto the scene of history come the 144,000 sealed Jewish evangelist and their "wonder working power."

37. At the time of the coming of the two beasts the world will be reeling from some terrible problem and there will be need to take advantage of that problem. Again Chuck Missler has written:

"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."

38. Whatever the impetus, and we could conjecture until hell freezes over and never have an answer. When the religious merger is complete, Satan will have accomplished one of the most fiendish deceptions of all times a blasphemous imitation of the Trinity!

39. Hall Lindsey is one who believes: "the first Beast will proclaim himself God; ... the second Beast will masquerade as the Messiah and ... the liberated demons (Rev 16:13 and 14) will imitate the power of the Holy Spirit!"

Rev 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.
Rev 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

40. 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."

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

41.1 he exercises unlimited authority (verse 12)

41.2 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.

41.3 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,

41.4 he deceives the population (verse 14)

41.5 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.

41.6 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.

41.7 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:

42. Recall in verse thirteen 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.

43. 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.

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

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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,

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.

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 to their works.

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. I would invite you to read Merrill Unger's book, *The Mystery of Bishop Pike* (Tyndale), and you will see documented evidence of supernatural phenomena by demons.

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

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 them, 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. The Scriptures indicate that the devil does have power to do miracles and that by their use he deceives people into worshiping the beast.

11. The deceptive power of the beast is mentioned specifically in verse 14. By means of this power he performs miracles in the sight of the first beast.

Rev 13:14 Because of the signs he was given ... he deceived the inhabitants of the earth.”

12. On the basis of this power and the impression it makes upon men described as "them that dwell on the earth," the second beast urges them to make an image of the first beast, described for the third time in this chapter as one which had the wound by a sword and did live.

13. The beast is a ruler of a vast world-wide empire.

14. As ruler he is the symbol of the empire and the executor of its power.

14.1 Recall there are those who hold: that the wound by the sword refers to the decline of the historic Roman Empire; its revival is indicated by the expression "did live;" the man who serves at the head of the empire is the symbol of this miraculous restoration.

14.2 Equally convincing, however, is the literal rendering of the Scripture: "the Antichrist himself receives and is resuscitated from a mortal head wound.”

14.3 These two positions we have covered previously as very tenable interpretations.

15. The image, say some, is not an image of the beast but, like the image of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 3, it is only a symbol of his power and majesty.

15.1 The image here, in my view, is an image of the Antichrist; it is the same image as the one described in Dan 9:27 and Mat 24:15.

Dan 9:27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

Mat 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16. Whatever the specific facsimile, the image becomes the center of the false worship of the world ruler.

17. This image, referred to three times in this chapter, is mentioned six more times in The Book of The Revelation (Rev 14:9-11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4).

Rev 14:9 A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand,

Rev 14:10 he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.

Rev 14:11 And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name."

Rev 15:2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

Rev 16:2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

Rev 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

18. The image is the center of false worship and the focal point of the final state of apostasy, the acme of the idolatry which has been the false religion of so many generations.

19. I think it safe to say that a good word picture envisioning the martyr's death would have to include his or her being seen before the image refusing to worship the idol of the Antichrist.

20. Before studying the next three verses which could be entitled "All Required To Worship The Beast", I want to give you an expanded translation of Rev 13:13-14.

Expanded Translation:

Rev 13:13 The False Prophet performed miraculous signs and wonders, even causing fire to streak across the heavens and then on command the fire would fall to earth in full view of men.

Rev 13:14 It was because of the many miracles performed by this 2nd beast that he was able to deceive the inhabitants of the earth. He received his power from the Antichrist and made no bones about the source of His power, consequently He ordered the leaders of Israel to set up an image in honor of the Antichrist.

Those living on planet earth had earlier been impressed because of the recovery of the Antichrist from the terrible mortal head wound; his resuscitation to life had made believers of many.

21. Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 13:15-17.

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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.

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:

Rev 13:17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

NIV

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.

Principles:

1. Translated literally, the expression "he had power to give life unto the image of the beast" is properly rendered "It was given to him to give spirit to the image of the beast."

1.1 The word translated "life" which in the Greek is "**Pneuma**" is incorrect; "**Pneuma**" is generally rendered spirit or breath and obviously is different from "**Zoe**" which means "life."

2. Many expositors hold that the extraordinary powers given by Satan to the false prophet do not extend to giving life to that which does not possess life, because this is a prerogative of God alone.

3. Notice what Walvoord writes:

"The intent of the passage seems to be that the image has the appearance of life manifested in breathing, but actually it may be no more than a robot. The image is further described as being able to speak, a faculty easily accomplished by mechanical means. In ancient times religious ventriloquism was sometimes used to give the impression of supernatural speech, a practice confirmed by archaeological excavations in Corinth."

4. To exclude from consideration the extraordinary spiritual powers of Satan is in my view an error.

4.1 For example in Acts 16:16 the slave girl possessed of a demon was able to bring gain to her masters by soothsaying.

4.2 She also supernaturally recognized Paul and his companions as "servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation" (Acts 16:17).

Acts 16:16 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.

Acts 16:17 This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved."

Acts 16:18 She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

Acts 16:19 When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities.

Acts 16:20 They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar

Acts 16:21 by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

Acts 16:22 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten.

4.3 Her power of speech was under demonic control.

5. Whether completely natural in its explanation, or whether some supernatural power is used to create the impression of life, the image apparently is quite convincing to the mass of humanity and helps to turn them to a worship of the first beast as their god.

6. The absolute authority of both the first and second beasts is such that those who will not worship the image of the beast are sentenced to be killed.

6.1 J. B. Smith attempts to ridicule the interpretation that this verse means what it actually says because some saints obviously survive the period of the great tribulation.

7. This is a needless objection, however, as a decree that all who fail to worship the beast should be killed is one thing, and its execution another.

7.1 Even in Germany under Hitler, it took many months to execute condemned Jews, and the task was never completed.

8. How much greater the difficulty to extend a decree of this sort to the entire world.

8.1 A countless multitude will be martyred according to Rev 7:9-17, but the disorder which attends the latter half of the great tribulation as the world empire begins to break up makes it impossible for full execution of this decree.

Rev 7:9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

Rev 7:10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Rev 7:11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

Rev 7:12 saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

Rev 7:13 Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?"

Rev 7:14 I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Rev 7:15 Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

Rev 7:16 Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat.

Rev 7:17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

8.2 Swete goes so far as to suggest that no decree to kill non-worshippers of the beast is actually issued, but that the beast only causes the image to suggest that this be done.

9. Swete says,

"As they stand, the words can only mean that the ventriloquist used his opportunity to make the image suggest that all who refused to worship to the image of Caesar should be put to death."

10. If the latter part of verse 15 records the words of the image, it would appear that verse sixteen refers to the false prophet himself.

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.

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,

10.1 The regulation is issued that all classes of people who worship the beast are to receive a mark in their right hands or in their foreheads and that possession of this identification is necessary to buy or sell.

11. All classes are included in three contrasting pairs: the small and the great, referring to status; the rich and the poor, alluding to possessions; and the free and bond, referring to their state in society.

12. To try to read into this an evil trinity or significance from the fact that six classes are mentioned is to read more into the passage than it intends.

13. There has been much speculation concerning the mark (Greek **Charagma**) which is affixed to the right hand or to the forehead.

14. George W. Davis observes that "the mark of the beast is in mimicry of the seal of the Holy Spirit on the true believer. The mark itself seems to vary according to verse 17 as in some cases being the name of the beast and in others the number of his name."

15. There is no need for a complicated explanation.

15.1 The mark is simply a token that they are beast worshipers, and it serves as identification necessary to conduct business and to purchase the necessities of life. It is another device to force all people to worship the beast.

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.

16. Before we look at the conundrum of the number of the beast, let me give you an expanded translation of Rev 13:15-17:

Rev 13:15 The False Prophet was permitted to put breath into the idol, so that it could speak. Everyone who refused to worship the image of the first beast was put to death.

Rev 13:16 All people were forced to receive a mark on their hand or on their forehead. It did not matter how powerful they were, how much money they had or who they knew,

Rev 13:17 if they wanted to buy or sell or transact business in any way, they had to have the mark. The mark stood for the name of the first beast and for the number of his name.

