

REVELATION CHAPTER THIRTEEN

BOOK OF THE REVELATION

What follows represents the unedited lecture notes of Pastor Merritt's teaching of the book of the Revelation. Please feel free to reproduce all or part for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. The teachings of the Revelation represent a compilation of things learned from such men as Col. R. B. Thieme, Lewis Sperry Chafer, Charles Ryrie, Arno C. Gabelein, John Walvoord, Hal Lindsay, Dwight Pentecost, along with an exegesis of the Greek and Hebrew texts.

Revelation

Lesson 94

11-14-2001

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the book of the Revelation. We are in lesson ninety-four.

1.1 Before we do though let's remember the application of 1Jo 1:9 as might be necessary.

2. Last week I completed the teaching of Revelation chapter twelve, gave you several introductory points about the Antichrist and when time ran out I was teaching Rev 13:1 and 2.

3. Let me review some of that learned last week and then I will continue with our analysis of Rev 13:1 and 2. To begin our review I want, just for the record, to provide an expanded translation of chapter twelve:

Rev 12:1 I then saw an exciting and wondrous scene in heaven; it was obviously a sign: there I could see a woman representing Israel; she was clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head; these things representing the twelve tribes who will ultimately rule.

Rev 12:2 The woman Israel was pregnant; she cried out in pain as she was about to give birth to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev 12:3 Suddenly there appeared in heaven an enormous red dragon who was clearly Satan; he had seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads; the picture depicts the mechanics of the rise to power of a Satanically indwelt Antichrist who would be the leader of the Revived Roman Empire headquartered in the city of Rome.

Rev 12:4 Then there was a flash back to an earlier time in eternity past when Satan and a third of all the angels rebelled against God; in this rebellion both Satan and those angels falling with him decided they could run things better than God. Then I saw the dragon standing in front of Mary the mother of Jesus' humanity who was about to give birth; Satan had indwelt the old fox Herod the Great planting in his sick mind a plan to devour her child. The pronouncement came in the year of 4 B.C. when the order to slay all male infants born in Judah who were two years of age and under was given; all of this was done in order to avert God's plan of redemption.

Rev 12:5 Mary gave birth to the Godman and named Him Jesus; this is the same Godman who at the Second Advent will rule all the nations of the world with an iron fist. Because of Israel's rejection of our Lord however the Christ was snatched up to God and was caused to sit at the right side of the Father in the place of honor in the Third Heaven.

Rev 12:6 The woman Israel later in the Great Tribulation will flee (in the same manner as Mary and Joseph did when they fled to Egypt) into the waiting arms of various Gentile nations where she will be protected for 1260 days.

Rev 12:7 I then saw a horrific war break out in heaven. Michael and all of the elect angels fought a vicious all-out battle against the dragon and his demons.

Rev 12:8 Satan and his forces battled relentlessly but Michael and his great army were just too strong for the forces of evil; Satan and all of his demon minions were driven back until they reached what looked like the far end of heaven; they were forced perilously close to heaven's precipice.

Rev 12:9 The great dragon was hurled down to earth--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who had for years led the whole world astray. This was the great sign so long predicted when Satan with his gang of outlaws would be thrown out of heaven and confined to planet earth.

Rev 12:10 I then heard a mighty 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 by means of His power willing to give up their lives in honor of their King Jesus.

Rev 12:12 The heavens themselves together with those living there rejoiced but then the voice 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, he pursued with a vengeance true Israel for he was furious at her for giving birth to Jesus the Christ.

Rev 12:14 Israel however was given an abundance of logistical grace and a hedge of fire for protection, in order that 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 all believers; battles raged in Palestine as nations from all over the world began to ravage the once peaceful land of Israel.

Rev 12:16 Places of refuge were discovered by the Jewish believers in the south of Palestine and many found haven in gentile lands who exercised their national prerogatives by refusing to "kowtow" to the world's international favorite, an indwelt Antichrist.

Rev 12:17 Satan was enraged at believing Israel and so he set about to make war against all believers of the Tribulation but particularly was he interested in exterminating all those who were actively witnessing of the power of their God.

Now let's continue our study.

4. 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.

5. 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."

6. 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.

7. The first beast, whose horns and crowns of royalty represent power, is himself energized by Satan.

8. It is almost unbelievable that the whole earth will worship the beast, the Antichrist.

9. There will be much religion on earth, but it will be godless and blasphemous.

10. This first beast is against God; he is energized by Satan; he is militarily supreme; he possesses world-wide power and he persecutes the Saints of God.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. Although the employment of peace as a part of his plan will certainly reassure the masses; the peace will prove to be short-lived.

15. Given the imminent nature of the Rapture I believe that the Antichrist lives right now somewhere in Europe, dreaming 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.

17. The Antichrist will be a supreme humanist, believing passionately that man can solve his own dilemmas.

17.1 He will not accept the Bible's evaluation that man is on the verge of chaos because of sin.

18. In fact, He will no doubt react violently to groups and individuals who analyze man's problem as sin.

18.1 He will feel that he is doing a good thing by bringing repressive measures against believers, whom he will consider "non-progressives."

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

20. 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.

21. Let's take a look at chapter thirteen verses one and two:

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, "The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt." (Isa 57:20)

5. It's from the chaos of the nations that the Antichrist will rise.

5.1 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)

5.2 During the last half of the Tribulation, God will allow Satan to give the Antichrist tremendous supernatural ability.

5.3 So great will be the Antichrist's influence over people that every "tribe and people and tongue and nation" will yield to his sway.

5.4 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'?

7. In the Bible horns almost always represent political power just as the sea represent gentiles or nations.

8. 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.

9. 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 Rome).

10. Then, when God is about to climax world history, ten nations will emerge from the ancient people and culture of the fourth empire, Rome, and will form a tight confederation that will become a sovereign political unit.

11. At this point a scintillating personality will rise to world prominence and be proclaimed the head of this "nation".

12. Of the ten nations that confederate, seven will acquiesce willingly, but three will seemingly have to be brought into the union unwillingly.

12.1 This will be accomplished by the Roman leader, who thereafter becomes a maniacal and tyrannical dictator.

13. Daniel also said that this confederacy would be the greatest Gentile power to ever gain control of the whole world, and that it would acquire this worldwide control through its economic and military strength and of course the actions of its expert leader.

14. Once a European confederacy includes the ten nations of God's choosing, the group will begin to look for a leader powerful enough to make this new confederation the nucleus of a one-world government.

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

16. 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."

16.1 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.

16.2 A "technocratic elite" is an accurate description of this predicted world leader referred to by the Apostle John as the Beast.

17. He will be a political genius a political giant of history.

17.1 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 Roman Empire officially died.

18. Charlemagne tried to put it together but failed. Napoleon did his best, but met his Waterloo!

18.1 Bismarck dreamed of making Germany the capital of a Revived Roman Empire.

19. 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."

20. His efforts resulted in the downfall of his own nation. Fruitless were the efforts of these men to reconstruct that which only God will permit and only in God's timing and that being after the Rapture of the Church.

21. 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."

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

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 and in Rev 12:3 and 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.

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)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

8. The successive idea seems to be born out by Rev 17:10-12 where the heads are indicated to be successive rulers.

8.1 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 (Rev 17:12).

Rev 17:10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

Rev 17:11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

Rev 17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

8.1.1 Most agree the explanation of Rev 17:10 is:

Five are fallen: these are Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Medo-Persia and Greece,

One is: Rome at the time of John's writing.

The other not yet come: Revived Roman Empire which will exist for a short time and then the Antichrist will arise from one of the weaker nations to take over first two and then become the leader of all ten and he will give each of the ten their power.

8.1.2 Walvoord writes of Rev 17:10-12: "The final form of world government, symbolized by the eighth beast itself, is the world empire of the great tribulation time. The revived Roman Empire which will be in sway immediately after the rapture of the church is apparently indicated by the seventh head, while the beast described in verse 11 as the eighth, is the world empire, which is destroyed by Jesus Christ at His second coming. In summation, what is described in verses 8 through 11 is the final form of the Gentile world ..."

8.1.3 John may be seeing the beast in both its historic and prophetic characters.

8.1.4 The beast is further described as being comparable to a leopard with the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion, and as receiving his power from the dragon, that is, from Satan.

8.2 The selection of these three animals is related to the similar revelation given in Daniel 7, where the successive world empires are the lion, referring to Babylon, the bear, referring to Medo-Persia, and the leopard, referring to the Alexandrian Empire.

Dan 7:3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

Dan 7:4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

Dan 7:5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

Dan 7:6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

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.

9. The fourth empire gathers all these elements and characteristics in itself and is far more dreadful in its power and blasphemy than the preceding empires.

10. The three beasts selected, as many have pointed out, are typical of the Revived Roman Empire in the Great Tribulation, having the majesty and power of the lion, the strength and tenacity of a bear, and the swiftness of the leopard, so well illustrated in the conquest of Alexander the Great.

10.1 Also these figures as we earlier noted represent gentile power which will end with the coming of Christ when literally the age of the gentile ceases and the Messiah King comes to establish Himself as King of the Jews.

11. In addition to these natural symbols of strength is the added factor of Satanic power coming from the dragon Satan himself.

12. He will, combine the distinguishing features of the three prominent world empires of the past. The ancient Greek Empire struck its foes like a leopard. In no time at all one foe after another caved in to the brilliant attacks of Alexander the Great.

13. The entire mighty empire of the Medo-Persians fell to Alexander in a matter of two and one-half years! But the coming Antichrist will out-perform Alexander the Great.

14. In a matter of weeks he will take over the ten nation European confederacy and eventually subjugate the whole world to himself.

15. During its prime the Medo-Persian Empire was like a powerful, deliberate bear. The raw power of its ponderous army was unstoppable. Whatever nations the Medo-Persians attacked, they conquered.

16. That's the way it will be with the Antichrist. During the first part of the Tribulation his Satanic backing will assure him eventual domination of the whole world population without a fight.

17. The Babylonian Empire was famous for its regal splendor. Most of the ancient wonders of the world were conceived and constructed by the monarchs of this era.

18. Like the lion, the king of beasts, the Antichrist will out do even the ancient Babylonian Empire with his bag of royal tricks!

19. There are those who contend that first he "rises from the dead" by means of the healing of a mortal head wound, then he takes over Europe and the world in a brilliant political and religious coup.

19.1 As noted earlier the chronology of the Antichrist's head wound (if any) is problematic at best.

20. After that he uses Satan's super-human wisdom to solve (temporarily) earth's overwhelming crises poverty, hunger, war and or alien invasion. For a year or two the world will revel in peace and prosperity!

21. Before leaving verses one and two let's take a look at an expanded translation:

Rev 13:1 And the devil looked out on the swirling mass of humanity; he viewed the confusion of the gentile world as opportunity. And I saw the Antichrist arise out from the confusion of the nations. There was a ten nation federation ruling Europe and from one of these small nations the beast rose to power of not only his small nation but soon he took over two other nations and then finally he became ruler over all ten; each of the ten leaders served as blasphemous leaders in open opposition to God.

Rev 13:2 John said the Antichrist resembled a leopard, with 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; all these symbols represent the four major powers of time past: the leopard, Alexander, the bear, the Medo-Persians and the lion, Babylon and soon to come the Revived Roman Empire.

Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 13:3:

KJV

Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

NIV

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.

1. The Antichrist (or so it seems) will in the middle of the Tribulation be the subject of a super miracle.

2. In verse 3 John says that he saw one of the Beast's heads as if it had been killed.

2.1 When this apparently mortal head wound is somehow miraculously healed by Satan, the whole world will follow after the Beast in a new way; he will be worshiped.

3. Once the Antichrist has the allegiance of the people however, his facade of peace and prosperity evaporates.

4. For the last three and one-half years the Antichrist will blaspheme God and His worshipers, ultimately killing a great many of the Tribulation saints because these loyal believers are the only resistance to his unanimous acclaim.

5. Our verse actually says "one of the heads of the Beast is wounded unto death, perhaps an apparent parallelism to the slain Lamb, described in Rev 5:6 and the incarnate Christ described in Rom 5:6-8.

Rev 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Rom 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Rom 5:7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

6. John further observes that the deadly wound is healed and that the entire earth marvels at the Beast.

7. The obvious view of the deadly head wound being healed indicates a resuscitation of the Antichrist himself and many hold to this position.

7.1 Countless other views have been offered in the interpretation of this verse, one of the very common ones; identifying the person wounded to death and healed as some historic character like Judas Iscariot, Nero, Hitler, John F. Kennedy etc.

8. "The multiplicity of suggestions" says Walvoord "seems to be evidence in itself that these explanations are not the meaning of the passage."

9. There are those who believe the wounding is a reference to the Roman Empire which indeed did "die" only to be revived in the Tribulation period.

10. There are others who contend the head suffering the mortal wound is one of the weaker nations from which the Antichrist arises; either the one from which he comes or one of the two he conquers. So concludes Col. R. B. Thieme in one of his earlier teachings of the book of the Revelation.

10.1 Walvoord has written "... it is doubtful that Satan has the power to restore to life one who has died, even though his power is great. Far more probable is the explanation that this is the revived Roman Empire ..."

11. As noted on more than one occasion I believe the Antichrist gains credence in the middle of the Tribulation for his self-proclaimed deity when people see him revived from 'death'.

11.1 In response to Walvoord's position one could postulate that the resuscitation could simple be some form shamanism commonly practiced today or like as a "fakir" in India might do today.

12. The position that the Antichrist received a fatal head wound from which he is resuscitated is supported by such expositors as Jerry Jenkins, Tim LaHaye and Hal Lindsey.

13. The following verse four tends to support a personal "real life" resuscitation.

Rev 13:4 Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"

14. Before moving forward let's take a look at an expanded translation of verse three:

Rev 13:3 The Antichrist sustained a fatal wound, but was miraculously resuscitated. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast as their political and spiritual leader.

Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 13:4:

KJV

Rev 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

NIV

Rev 13:4 Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"

1. The final form of apostasy is not simply the worship of some pagan deity but the worship of Satan himself who in his whole program seeks to be like God".

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

2. Because men worship Satan, they also worship the beast, i.e., the man who rules over the Revived Roman Empire.

3. He is Satan's substitute for Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords, and to him the world flocks. This is indicated by the questions "who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?"

4. This takes place apparently at the beginning of the Great Tribulation when the head of the Revived Roman Empire, described here as the beast, is able to quickly assume authority over the entire world.

5. The basis for this authority is undoubtedly power over the entire world. The source of this authority is undoubtedly power given to him by Satan himself which is aided by a world situation in which there is no serious contender for his office.

6. We are now ready for an expanded translation of verse four:

Expanded Translation:

Rev 13:4 Most of the world worshiped Satan because he indwelt the Antichrist and gave authority and power to him; this certainly included military power; those who worshiped the new world leader were absolutely devoted and impressed; they asked, "Who is like the Antichrist? Who can make war against him?"

Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 13:5 and 6:

KJV

Rev 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Rev 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

NIV

Rev 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.

Rev 13:6 He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

Principles:

1. The evil character of the world ruler of that day is shown in his boasting and blasphemy.

2. A similar description of the same character is given in Dan 7:8, 11, and 25.

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 7:11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

Dan 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

3. His authority continues for forty-two months, again the familiar three and one-half years of the Great Tribulation.

4. The person who heads the Revived Roman Empire recall enters into a covenant with the Jewish people right after the translation of the Church therefore this 42 months would be a reference to the last three and one-half years.

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."

5. This because of verse six and the statement "he opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven".

6. Particularly telling is that portion of the verse which describes his "slandering of the dwelling place, i.e., the tabernacle or rebuilt Temple.

6.1 Keep in mind, when the Tribulation begins there is no rebuilt Temple of Herod; its rebuilding would seem to be part of the religious covenant with Israel.

7. It would also follow that his rule over all nations will not begin until the time of the Great Tribulation. This too is problematic.

8. The Great Tribulation will last for 42 months until the Second Coming of Christ when the Antichrist's reign is terminated.

End Lesson Taught 11-14-2001

Revelation

Lesson 95

11-28-2011

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the book of the Revelation. We are in lesson ninety-five.

1.1 Before we do though let's remember the application of 1Jo 1:9 as might be necessary.

2. On 14 November I taught Rev 13:1-4 and when time ran out I was in the process of teaching Rev 13:5 and 6.

3. Let me review some of that learned last week and then I will continue with our analysis of verses five and six. To begin that review I want to provide an expanded translation of verses one through four:

Rev 13:1 And the devil looked out on planet earth's swirling mass of humanity; he viewed the confusion of the gentile world as opportunity. Then I saw the Antichrist arise out from the confused skein of the nations. There was a ten nation federation ruling Europe and from one the smallest of the ten the Antichrist rose to power; soon he took over two other nations and then finally he became ruler over all ten; each of the ten leaders served as blasphemous heads of state in open opposition to God.

Rev 13:2 John said the Antichrist resembled a leopard, with feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. A dragon gave the beast his power, a throne and great authority; the animal symbols represented three of the four major gentile empires of time past: the leopard, Alexander, the bear, the Medo-Persians and the lion, Babylon; soon to come but not yet revealed would be the Revived Roman Empire.

Rev 13:3 The Antichrist sustained a fatal wound, but was miraculously resuscitated. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast as their political and spiritual leader.

Rev 13:4 Most of the world, though not aware, were worshiping Satan because the dragon indwelt the Antichrist and gave authority and power to him; this power included a strong military presence; those who worshiped the new world leader were absolutely devoted and impressed; they asked, "Who is like the Antichrist? Who can make war against him?"

Now let's return to a study of Rev 13:5 and 6:

KJV

Rev 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Rev 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

NIV

Rev 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.

Rev 13:6 He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

Principles:

1. The evil character of the world ruler of that day is shown in his boasting and blasphemy.

2. A similar description of the same character is given in Dan 7:8 and 25.

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 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

3. His authority continues for forty-two months, again the familiar three and one-half years of the Great Tribulation.

4. The person who heads the Revived Roman Empire enters into a 42 month agreement with Israel right after the translation of the Church; the 42 months of verse five however are a reference to the last three and one-half years.

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."

5. We know that we have a reference to the last 42 months of The Tribulation because of verse six and the statement "he opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven."

6. Particularly telling is that portion of the verse which describes his "slandering of the dwelling place," i.e., the faux temple constructed by the Antichrist for use of Israel in their liturgy.

6.1 Keep in mind, when the Tribulation begins there is no rebuilt Temple of Herod; the Temple is now located somewhere under the Dome of The Mosque; this Mosque is sacred to Islam, second only to Mecca.

6.2 The rebuilding of the Temple would seem to be part of the religious covenant with Israel. The Arabs are somehow placated, an evidence of the sagacity of the indwelt Antichrist. In the first half of the Tribulation both the beasts support the worship practices of Israel. It is in the middle that he puts an end to the treaty.

7. It would also follow that his rule over all nations will not begin until the time of the Great Tribulation. This to some is problematic.

8. The Great Tribulation will last for 42 months until the Second Coming of Christ when the Antichrist's reign is terminated.

9. It is evident that blasphemy is not an incidental feature of the Antichrist's kingdom but one of its main features.

9.1 He is described in verse six as blaspheming against God, against the name of God, and against the Third Heaven and those who dwell in heaven.

10. As Satan's mouthpiece he is the ultimate in an unbeliever uttering repeated irreverences against God.

11. If the king of Dan 11:36-37 is the Antichrist, and this certainly seems to be the case, he does so in total disregard of any god or gods because he magnifies himself above all that has ever been worshiped.

Dan 11:36 And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

Dan 11:37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

11.1 Wycliffe writes of the identification of the Dan 11:36 king:

"This king is the same as the "son of perdition" (2Th 2:3-4), who is to appear before Christ's second advent (2Th 2:1-2; compared with Dan 7:11 and 25). His career will be short, lasting only until the indignation of God is vented upon mankind in the end time."

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;
2Th 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

2Th 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,
2Th 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Dan 7:11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

Dan 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

12. Let's see how verses five and six look by way of expanded translation:

Rev 13:5 The Antichrist was given great wisdom to blaspheme God and His Word; he exercised his authority during the last forty-two months of the Tribulation.

Rev 13:6 Both the Antichrist and the False Prophet took great pleasure in blaspheming God, slandering His name and the Third Heaven and those who live there.

Now for Rev 13:7:

KJV

Rev 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

NIV

Rev 13:7 He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.

Principles:

1. As is anticipated in Dan 7:23, where the beast devours "the whole earth," the worldwide extent of his power would certainly seem to be indicated.

Dan 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

2. The expression "it was given to him" refers to the Satanic origin of his power.

2.1 Acting as Satan's tool, the beast is able to wage war against the saints throughout the entire globe and to overcome many but some number of believers will see through his worldwide plot and as a result be martyred. Dan 7:25; 9:27; 12:10 and Rev 7:9-14.

Dan 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Dan 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Dan 12:10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

Rev 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Rev 7:10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Rev 7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

Rev 7:12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Rev 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

Rev 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

3. It is in the will of God for many believers (both Jews and Gentiles) to perish as martyrs, it is also in that same will of God for others to survive; this in spite of all the Antichrist can do.

4. The ultimate in worldwide authority is indicated in verse seven, in that he was "given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation."

4.1 Recall "power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."

5. The dream of countless rulers in the past of conquering the entire world is here finally achieved by this last Gentile ruler.

6. The universal authority of the beast over the entire earth is stated specifically in the latter part of verse seven and power was given him over all kindred, and tongues, and nations."

6.1 The word peoples should be inserted after the word kindred as in the best texts, making the verse read "power was given him over all kindreds, peoples, and tongues, and nations."

7. Additionally, since the nouns are properly singular, the clause is better rendered "and authority was given to him over every tribe and people and tongue and nation."

8. Such authority as we have seen was anticipated by Daniel (Dan. 7:23) where it is stated that the fourth beast "shall devour the whole earth, and tread it down, and break it in pieces"; additionally, its uniqueness was anticipated by Daniel in the phrase "which shall be diverse from all kingdoms."

Dan 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

9. The dream of world conquest achieved in part by the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian, and Roman empires is now for the first time realized completely.

9.1 It is the Satanic counterfeit of Christ's Millennial reign and is permitted by God in a final display of the evil of Satan and mankind's willing wickedness.

10. The time of this universal sway as earlier noted is clearly indicated in Rev 13:5; it is forty-two months in duration, namely the last three and one-half years preceding the return of Christ.

Rev 13:5 The Antichrist was given great wisdom to blaspheme God and His Word; he exercised his authority for forty-two months.

11. By way of preview but pertinent: in verse 8 John speaks of a book called "the book of life."

11.1 In this book are written the names of every person who ever lived on the face of the earth.

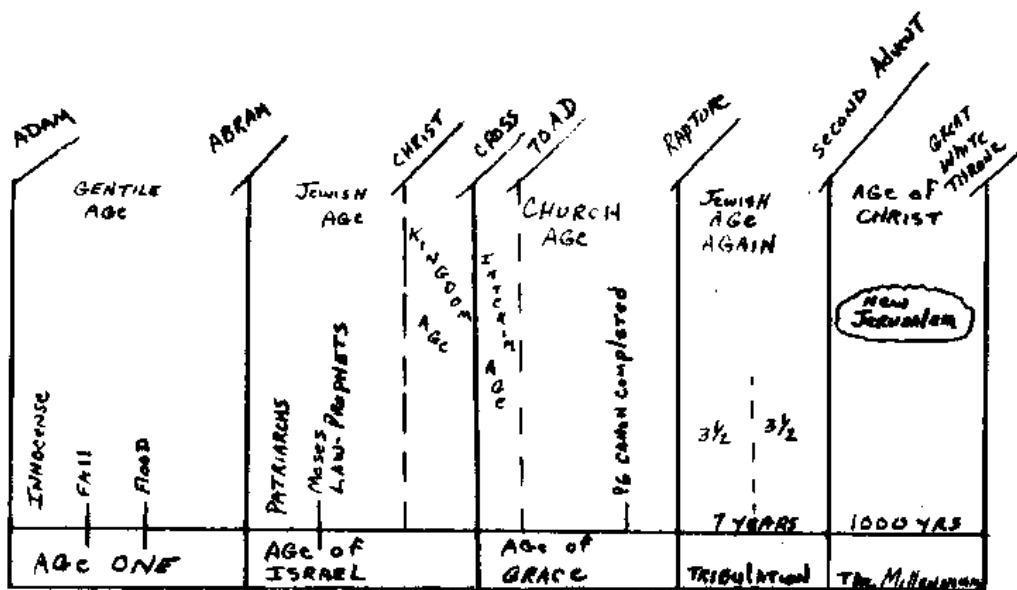
Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

12. When a person rejects Jesus Christ as Savior, and God knows that he will never change his mind, that man's name is blotted out of the Book of Life.

13. Those whose names are no longer in God's book will be the ones who will worship the Antichrist in the Tribulation.

13.1 Be aware all peoples have been placed in their proper dispensation; and this is done only after the Omniscience of God has seen and the Sovereignty of God has declared.

13.2 It follows therefore that the Tribulation is populated with some of God's finest just as was the case during the first and second centuries of the Age of the Church.



13.3 Let's look at what history teaches of the destiny of our early Apostles. From Foxes Book of Martyrs.

Stephen

Stephen suffered ... death was occasioned by the faithful manner in which he preached the Gospel ... they cast him out of the city and stoned him to death. The time when he suffered is generally supposed to have been at the Passover ...

Luke

We are ... told by St. Luke, that "there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem;" and that "they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles." About two thousand Christians ... suffered martyrdom during the "persecution that arose about Stephen."

James the Great

The next martyr we meet ... according to St. Luke, in ... Acts, was James the son of Zebedee, the elder brother of John ... It was not until ten years after the death of Stephen that the second martyrdom took place; for no sooner had Herod Agrippa been appointed governor of Judea ... he raised a sharp persecution against the Christians ...

Phillip

Was born at Bethsaida, in Galilee and was first called by the name of "disciple." He labored diligently in Upper Asia, and suffered martyrdom at Heliopolis, in Phrygia. He was scourged, thrown into prison, and afterwards crucified, A.D. 54.

Matthew

Whose occupation was that of a toll-gatherer, was born at Nazareth. He wrote his gospel in Hebrew, which was afterwards translated into Greek by James the Less. The scene of his labors was Parthia, and Ethiopia, in which latter country he suffered martyrdom, being slain with a halberd in the city of Nadabah, A. D. 60.

James the Less

Is supposed by some to have been the brother of our Lord, by a former wife of Joseph. This is very doubtful, and accords too much with the Catholic superstition, that Mary never had any other children except our Savior... At the age of ninety-four he was beaten and stoned by the Jews; and finally had his brains dashed out with a ... club.

Matthias

Of whom less is known than of most of the other disciples, was elected to fill the vacant place of Judas. He was stoned at Jerusalem and then beheaded.

Andrew

Was the brother of Peter. He preached the gospel to many Asiatic nations; but on his arrival at Edessa (the former capital of Macedonia [Greece]) he was taken and crucified on a cross, the two ends of which were fixed transversely in the ground. Hence the derivation of the term, St. Andrew's Cross.

Mark

Was born of Jewish parents of the tribe of Levi. He is supposed to have been converted to Christianity by Peter, whom he served as an amanuensis, and under whose inspection he wrote his Gospel in the Greek language. Mark was dragged to pieces by the people of Alexandria, at the great solemnity of Serapis their idol, ending his life under their merciless hands.

Peter

Among many other saints, the ... apostle Peter was condemned to death, and crucified ... at Rome ... Nero sought the matter against Peter ... Jerome said that he was crucified, his head being down and his feet upward himself so requiring, because he was (he said) unworthy to be crucified after the same form and manner as the Lord was.

Paul

Paul, the apostle, who before was called Saul, after his great travail and unspeakable labors in promoting the Gospel of Christ, suffered also in this first persecution under Nero... soldiers came and led him out of the city to the place of execution, where he, after his prayers ... gave his neck to the sword.

Jude

The brother of James, was commonly called Thaddaeus. He was crucified at Edessa, A. D. 72.

Bartholomew

Preached in several countries, and having translated the Gospel of Matthew into the language of India, he propagated it in that country. He was at length cruelly beaten and then crucified by the impatient idolaters.

Thomas

Called Didymus, preached the Gospel in Parthia and India, where exciting the rage of the pagan priests, he was martyred by being thrust through with a spear.

14. Satan will be so furious with those whose names are still in the Book of Life that he will stimulate the Antichrist to wage a war of attrition on them.

15. By one means or another, all over the world, believers will have to suffer or die for their faith (verse 10).

15.1 Many will not resist, but will submit willingly to death, just like the thousands of martyrs before them.

Rev 13:10 If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

16. The period when all this occurs is described as the Great Tribulation.

16.1 It is apparent, however, that as the period moves on to its end a terrible world war is under way and will continue until the time of the return of Christ.

17. This war seems to be a rebellion against the universal sway of the Antichrist and comes at the very end of the tribulation time.

18. A universal kingdom and a world war could not coexist, since one is the contradiction of the other; thus we have a reference to the Great Tribulation.

18.1 The alternative view of J. B. Smith, that all passages speaking of conflicts between the nations must precede the time of tribulation, that is, refer to the first half of the seven-year period.

19. Walvoord has aptly said of Smith's position "it is without proper justification. This would put the natural development of the end of the age in an unwarranted stricture."

20. Before we move to verse eight, let's see how Rev 13:7 looks by way of expanded translation:

Rev 13:7 The Antichrist in the last half of the Tribulation was given by Satan the power to make war against the believers of the Tribulation and to conquer them; all of this of course is done under the permissive will of God. And he was given authority over all the peoples of the world.

Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 13:8.

KJV

Rev 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

NIV

Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

Principles:

1. Just as it would seem "the entire world" is under the political domination of the beast, so all the world except the saints will worship him.
2. The intention here is to include everyone dwelling upon the earth, excluding only those who are saints. It is a reference to world political domination.
3. Walter Scott defines the term as meaning that "all save the elect are in view."

"These who thus worship the beast are described as not having their names written in the book of life, a book frequently mentioned in the Revelation and elsewhere", for example: (Rev 3:5; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; 22:19) also compare (Luk 10:20 and Phi 4:3).

Rev 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Rev 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder (Thaumazo - marvel), whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Rev 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Luk 10:20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Phi 4:3 And I entreat thee also, true yoke fellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

3.1 Explanation of those who overcome can be found in 1Jo 5:5.

1Jo 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

4. Those worshiping the beast are the unsaved of both Jews and Gentiles in contrast to saved Jews and Gentiles whose names are written in the book of life.

5. A further description of the book of life is given as belonging to the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

6. The translation here follows the order of the Greek.

6.1 Most expositors have taken the expression "whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" to refer to those whose names have been redacted.

6.2 Others believe the writing occurred at the time of the slaying of the Lamb which occurred on Calvary.

7. This verse as well as the entire concept of the Book of Life presents a number of problems to many of the Armenian Theological persuasion.

8. Armenians believe the believer's name is placed in the Book of Life when they believe and that the name is removed if they don't pass "some muster" i. e. good works sufficient to attain salvation, being baptized, joining a certain denomination, getting the second blessing, or not drinking, smoking or murdering someone or as the Methodist like to say "not committing sins of commission, only sins of omission."

9. Grace oriented Christians take the position that all peoples are originally recorded in the Book of Life and only after they refuse to believe is their name stricken.

9.1 This time of redaction in most cases I suspect is at their death although I am also certain some are left around even after all has been done that can be done to get them to believe, just to be used in God's plan.

10. Hal Lindsey has written "In verse 8 John speaks of a book called "the Book of Life of the Lamb." In this book are written the names of every person who ever lived on the face of the earth. When a person rejects Jesus Christ as Savior, and God knows that he will never change his mind, that man's name is blotted out of the Book of Life. Those whose names are no longer in God's book will be the ones who will worship the Antichrist."

11. It is clear, certainly to me as a grace expositor that the Book of Life is a book in which all who have received the breath of life are listed and a striking occurs only after their last and final refusal to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

12. Though somewhat involved, the ultimate meaning of Rev 13:8 is simply that all who are not saved will worship the beast and that those who are saved will not worship him.

Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

13. The reference to "the foundation of the world" cannot be limited, as J. B. Smith does, to the beginning of the Old Testament, but rather, as the Greek indicates, to the beginning of the "cosmos," that is, the ordered events which predate human history.

13.1 We call it eternity past before time was.

14. Rev 13:8 by way of expanded translation might better read:

Rev 13:8 The nations of the world and all the unbelieving citizens therein could be seen worshipping the Antichrist as God--that is to say all those whose names had not been redacted from the book of life belonging to the Lamb; the Lamb being the Lord Jesus Christ Who was slain in eternity past before time was.

Now let's see what we can glean from Rev 13:9 and 10.

KJV

Rev 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

Rev 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

NIV

Rev 13:9 He who has an ear, let him hear.

Rev 13:10 If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

Principles:

1. Here is the command for the patience and the faith of the saints.

1.1 It is clear from verse eight that the universal worship of the beast will achieve at long last the characteristics of a world religion in that it will be ecumenical and as CNN and others demand it will be inclusive of "all faiths."

2. The desire to have all Christian churches unite, or to even go one step further and unite all religions of the world, has for years been advanced as a desired goal.

2.1 Because of the indwelling and restraining ministry of God the Holy Spirit this effort though repeatedly attempted will not be achieved prior to the end of the church age.

2.2 There is today as you can read in any newspaper, certainly to include the Austin American Statesmen, an impetus to "be inclusive. "All faiths day" in this city is a big deal.

2.2.1 A large front page color picture was published this month in our paper showing church leaders from the Hindu, Bahai, Islam, Buddhist, Catholic, Methodist and Baptist faiths attending a prayer session.

2.2.2 Our most President recently participated in such an interfaith program. Such however is nothing new.

2.3 There are those pushing for one world, one faith, tolerance and diversity where all faiths love and embrace one another as those ultimately going to the same place in the hereafter.

2.4 This is Satans "malarkey" right out of the pit of hell.

3. However, in the great tribulation as here described, a world religion will be advanced which will have as its focal point the worship of a man chosen and empowered by Satan himself.

4. In that day, believers in Christ will be separated from this world religion and will be the objects of its fearful persecution.

5. From a Biblical point of view, the concept of a world religion prior to the second coming of Christ will be far removed from a true recognition of God.

6. The invitation "If any man have an ear, let him hear" emphasizes the preceding as a matter of great moment to which all should give attention.

End Lesson Taught 11-28-20

Revelation

Lesson 96

12-5-2001

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the book of the Revelation. We are in lesson ninety-six

1.1 Before we do though let's remember the application of 1Jo 1:9 as might be necessary.

2. Last week I taught Rev 13:5-8 and when time ran out I was in the process of teaching several principles gleaned from verse eight.

3. Let me review some of that learned last week and then I will continue with our analysis of verses eight. To begin that review I want to provide an expanded translation of Rev 13:1-8

Rev 13:1 And the devil looked out on planet earth's swirling mass of humanity; he viewed the confusion of the gentile world as opportunity. Then I saw the Antichrist arise out from the confused skein of the nations. There was a ten nation federation ruling Europe and from one of the smallest of the ten the Antichrist rose to power; soon he took over two other nations and then finally he became ruler over all ten; each of the ten leaders served as blasphemous heads of state in open opposition to God.

Rev 13:2 John said the Antichrist resembled a leopard, with feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. A dragon gave the beast his power, a throne and great authority; the animal symbols represented three of the four major gentile empires of time past: the leopard, Alexander, the bear, the Medo-Persians and the lion, Babylon; soon to come but not yet revealed would be the Revived Roman Empire.

Rev 13:3 The Antichrist sustained a fatal wound, but was miraculously resuscitated. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast as their political and spiritual leader.

Rev 13:4 Most of the world, though not aware, were worshiping Satan because the dragon indwelt the Antichrist and gave authority and power to him; this power included a strong military presence; those who worshiped the new world leader were absolutely devoted and impressed; they asked, "Who is like the Antichrist? Who can make war against him?"

Rev 13:5 The Antichrist was given great wisdom to blaspheme God and His Word; he ruled as a despot during the last forty-two months of the Tribulation.

Rev 13:6 Both the Antichrist and the False Prophet took great pleasure in blaspheming God, slandering His name and the Third Heaven and those who lived there.

Rev 13:7 The Antichrist in the last half of the Tribulation was given by Satan the power to make war against the believers of the Tribulation and to conquer them; all of this of course is done under the permissive will of God. And he was given authority over all the peoples of the world.

Rev 13:8 The nations of the world and all the unbelieving citizens therein could be seen worshiping the Antichrist as God--that is to say all those whose names had been removed from the book of life belonging to the Lamb; the Lamb being the Lord Jesus Christ Who was slain in eternity past before time was.

Now let's return to our study of Revelation verse eight:

Principles:

1. All the world except the saints, i.e., believers will worship him.
2. The intention here is to include everyone dwelling upon the earth, excluding only those who are saints.
3. Walter Scott defines the term as meaning that "all save the elect are in view."

"These who thus worship the beast are described as not having their names written in the book of life, a book frequently mentioned in the Revelation and elsewhere."

4. Those worshiping the beast are the unsaved in contrast to saved Jews and Gentiles whose names are written in the book of life.

5. A further description of the book of life is given as belonging to the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

6. This verse as well as the entire concept of the book of life presents a number of problems to many of the Armenian Theological persuasion.

7. Armenians believe the believer's name is placed in the Book of Life when they believe and that the name is removed if they don't pass "some muster," i.e., good works sufficient to attain and/or salvation, being baptized, joining a certain denomination, getting the second blessing or not drinking, smoking or murdering someone or as the Methodist like to say "not committing sins of commission, only sins of omission."

8. Grace oriented Christians take the position that all peoples are originally recorded in the Book of Life and only after they refuse to believe is their name stricken.

9. This time of redaction in most cases I suspect is at their death although I am also certain some are left around even after all has been done that can be done to get them to believe, just to be used in God's plan.

10. It is clear, certainly to me as a grace expositor that the book of life is a book in which all who have received the breath of life are listed and a striking occurs only after their last and final refusal to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

11. Though somewhat involved, the ultimate meaning of Rev 13:8 is simply that all who are not saved will worship the beast and that those who are saved will not worship him.

Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

12. The reference to "the foundation of the world" [KJV] is a reference to the beginning of the "cosmos," that is, the ordered events which predate human history.

13. Now let's see what we can glean from Rev 13:9 and 10.

KJV

Rev 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

Rev 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

NIV

Rev 13:9 He who has an ear, let him hear.

Rev 13:10 If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

Principles:

1. Here is the command for the patience and the faith of the saints.

1.1 It is clear from verse eight that the universal worship of the beast will achieve at long last the characteristics of a world religion in that it will be ecumenical and will be inclusive of "all faiths".

2. The desire to have all Christian churches unite or to even go one step further and unite all religions of the world, has for years been advanced as a desired goal.

2.1 Because of the indwelling and restraining ministry of God the Holy Spirit this effort though repeatedly attempted will not be achieved prior to the end of the church age.

2.2 There are those pushing for one world, one faith, tolerance and diversity where all faiths love and embrace one another as those ultimately going to the same place in the hereafter.

2.3 This is Satan's "malarkey" right out of the pit of hell.

3. However, in the great tribulation as here described, a world religion will be advanced which will have as its focal point the worship of a man chosen and empowered by Satan himself.

4. In that day, believers in Christ will be separated from this world religion and will be the objects of its fearful persecution.

5. From a biblical point of view, the concept of a world religion prior to the second coming of Christ will be far removed from a true recognition of God.

6. The invitation "If any man have an ear, let him hear" emphasizes the preceding as a matter of great moment to which all should give attention.

7. Here, as in the Gospels you can find similar expressions of urgency and exhortation.

Mat 11:14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.

Mat 11:15 He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Mat 13:8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

Mat 13:9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Mat 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

Mat 13:42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Mat 13:43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Mar 7:15 There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.

Mar 7:16 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

Luk 14:34 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned?

Luk 14:35 It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

8. A close parallel as well as a contrast is also observable between this invitation and the invitation to the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3 where the exhortation is to "hear what the Spirit says unto the churches."

Rev 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Rev 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Rev 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Rev 2:29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Rev 3:6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Rev 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Rev 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

9. The omission of the phrase "unto the churches" in Rev 13:9 is most significant and tends to support the teaching that the church, the body of Christ, has previously been Raptured.

Rev 13:9 He who has an ear, let him hear.

10. The exhortation in our verse is to anyone who will listen; the message is not addressed only to the church as such but to the entire world; the church recall is in heaven during the seven years of the Tribulation.

11. Reinforcing the exhortation is the warning of the ultimate sovereign justice of God which will be brought to bear upon this scene of wickedness.

12. A number of variations occur in the text of verse 10, but the general meaning is clear. The best texts seem to read, "If any man is for captivity, into captivity he goes.

13. If any man is to be killed by the sword he must be killed by the sword." In a phrase, for the unbeliever, it is the law of divine retribution.

14. Those who persecute the saints and lead them into captivity must in turn suffer the righteous wrath of God.

14.1 In this ultimate triumph and judgment upon wicked men lie the patience and faith of the saints in their hour of trial.

15. The Scriptures frequently mention this vindication and the sanctity of life. (Gen 9:6; Mat 26:52; Rom 13:1-5; 12:19; Gal 6:7)

Gen 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

Mat 26:52 Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

Mat 26:53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

Rom 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Rom 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Rom 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

Rom 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Rom 13:5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

16. The same truth which serves as an encouragement to the saints acts as a warning to their persecutors.

16.1 Their ultimate doom is assured as in this case at the end of their brief period of power.

Rev 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Rev 16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

Rev 16:6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Rev 18:3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

Rev 18:5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Rev 18:6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

Rev 18:7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

Rev 18:8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her...

Rev 18:20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

Rev 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet ... and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

16.2 As we have earlier studied, there is an admonition throughout the Scripture for the Saints to expect imprisonment and death but with patience and endurance, just as Saints have done throughout the ages.

16.3 Though they may murder and imprison the Saints of God their collective travails will only serve as fuel for future divine retribution.

17. Taken as a whole, the first ten verses of Revelation 13 predict a future world government which from the perspective of Scripture will be a continuation of the ancient Roman Empire expanded ultimately to cover not only the area of the ancient empire but the entire world.

18. This government will be empowered by Satan, and its primary objective will be forcing the whole world to worship Satan and his human representative, the world dictator.

19. The purpose of Satan is to take the place of God in the tribulation; this is in fact the motivating factor behind Satan's activities today.

20. Satan's desire to be like God originally plunged the universe into sin and rebellion. (Isa 14:12-15)

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isa 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Isa 14:15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

20.1 His program has never changed, and he is seeking today as throughout his career to lure men to obey him instead of God.

21. In the great tribulation this purpose will be clear, although ultimately it will be brought into divine judgment.

Now let's see how our verses nine and ten look by way of expanded translation:

Rev 13:9 If you have a lick of sense you will pay attention to what is here being said.

Rev 13:10 If you live in the Tribulation and you are going to be incarcerated for the cause of Christ then so be it; it is God's will. If you are to be executed, so be it, it is God's will.

This age will call for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints of God but at the end of the seven years the Saints of God will be vindicated.

22. We are now ready to take a look at the Second Beast--the False Prophet. Before we do I want to give you a very extensive Doctrine of the Antichrist.

Introduction

1. Ten kings shall arise in the final stage of the fourth (Roman) kingdom and shall reign contemporaneously not successively as we have seen in Rev 17:12-13.

Rev 17:12 "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast.

Rev 17:13 They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.

2. Let me read you what Wycliffe has written about the Antichrist in his Commentary: "Of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth, etc. All interpreters-Jewish, Christian, unbelievers-agree that this is the Antichrist ... twelve facts about the Antichrist:

“(1) He will not create a tenfold confederacy; he will absorb one (Dan 7:24).

Dan 7:24 The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.

“(2) He will be just another king-"another ... horn" (Dan 7:8), and he will be mortal (Rev 13:2; 2Th 2:9). It will be the Satanic power behind him that will make him significant. He will according to Rev 13:2 combine the characteristics of the three earlier empires into an awful but powerful creation of satanic mayhem and mischief.

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.

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.

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,

“(3) He will be obscure at first-"little" (Dan 7:8).

“(4) His march to power will begin with his conquest of three kingdoms (Dan 7:8; compared with Dan 7:24).

Dan 7:24 The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.

“(5) Yet something about him will be special (diverse from the first [ten], Dan 7:24). (Also see Rev 13:15; 2Th 2:4) Many extraordinary events will be connected with him. (Rev 13:16-17; 2Th 2:9-10)

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.

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.

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.

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,
2Th 2:10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

“(6) He will be very intelligent-"eyes of a man" (Dan 7:8).

“(7) He will be an orator of ability (Dan 7:8).

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.

“(8) His appearance will be striking (Dan 7:20).

Dan 7:20 I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell-- the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

“(9) He will be a blasphemer (Dan 7:25; compared with Rev 13:5-6).

Dan 7:25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

Rev 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.

Rev 13:6 He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

“(10) He will seek to make his accession a new epoch (Dan 7:25, change times).

“(11) He will seek to destroy Israel (Dan 7:25a; compared with Dan 9:26-27).

Dan 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High ...

Dan 9:26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

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."

“(12) His time will be short (Dan 7:25), a time, (two) times, and the dividing (half) of time (compare Rev 11:2; 13:5; Dan 12:7).

Rev 11:2 But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.

Rev 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.

Dan 12:7 The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, "It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed."

3. These verses in Daniel seven also provide further evidence supporting the premillennial view.

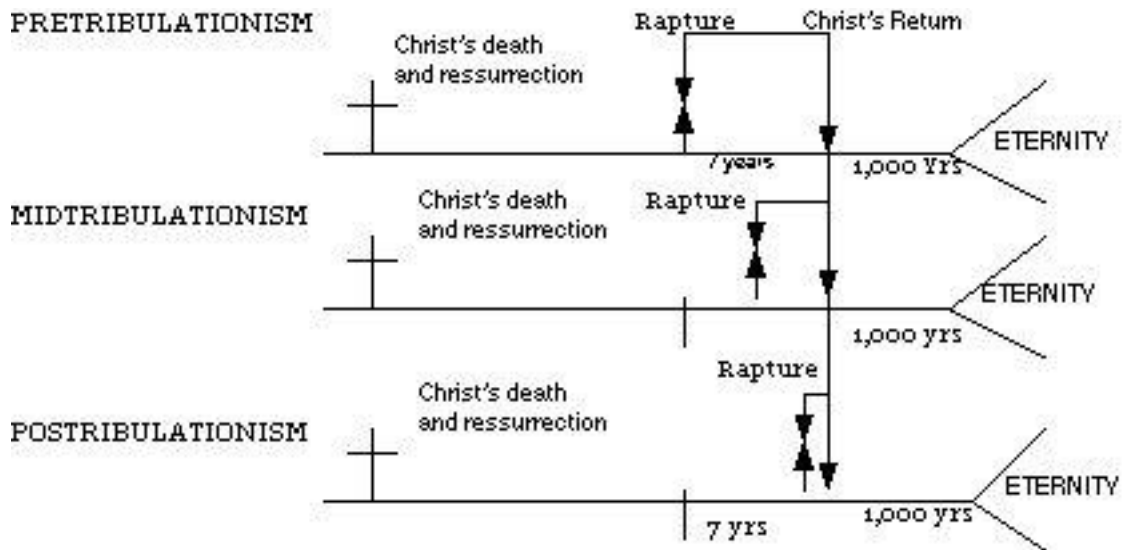
3.1 The Messiah's kingdom follows the Antichrist's appearance. This appears to make post- and amillennial schemes identifying the Church with the kingdom unfeasible.

3.2 The kingdom of the Messiah follows the Gentile kingdoms; the Antichrist's kingdom is at no time contemporary with the Gentile empires. It must, therefore, be still future.

3.3 The kingdom of Christ succeeds the final form of the Gentile dominion, i.e, the Revived Roman Empire which does not appear until the Tribulation.

3.4 The Messianic kingdom is external in its aspect, not a kingdom in men's hearts, as Church-Kingdom theories demand.

3.4.1 Let me give you a chart that best explains the three eschatological positions relating to the timing of the Rapture, Tribulation and the Millennium.



3.5 This kingdom of the Antichrist is related with Israel and not the church. (Compare Dan 7:7, 22, 25 and 27 with 8:22-24). The "saints" or holy people referred to here is Israel and no other. The Church is not a Jewish kingdom.

Dan 7:7 "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast--terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

Dan 7:22 until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

Dan 7:25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

Dan 7:27 When the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'

Dan 8:22 The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power.

Dan 8:23 "In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise.

Dan 8:24 He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people.

4. Let me now give you seventy-two points about the Antichrist:

4.1 John in the Book of The Revelation is fulfilling the role of a prophet, one sent by God with God's message to deliver to man.

4.2 In the thirteenth chapter, John introduces us to a beast. God in the Apocalypse has John use many figures and many symbols to convey truth.

4.3 To many these are arcane, but they need not be, for when you compare Scripture with Scripture, you find that Scripture often will interpret its own figures and its own symbols. So we are not left with idle speculation as to the significance of these.

4.4 Reading in Revelation chapter 13 verses 1 and 2 (KJV), "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.

4.4.1 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."

4.5 The Sea in Scripture is frequently used, particularly in the Old Testament, as a reference to Gentile nations. "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." (Isa. 57:20)

4.6 The sea represented Gentile nations. John saw this beast emerging from among Gentile nations. He says a unique thing about this one at the end of verse Rev 13:2 ... "the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."

4.7 Now we see another symbol, the dragon. If you will look back to Revelation chapter 12, the dragon is introduced to us there for the first time in the book of the Revelation. "The great dragon was cast out, that old serpent - the devil."

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

4.8 The dragon then is the symbol for Satan. So here is one emerging from among the Gentile nations who receives his power and his authority and his right to rule, not from God directly but from the permissive will of God indirectly."

4.9 The Antichrist gets his power from a unique indwelling; an indwelling the likes of which I suspect we have never seen nor will ever see.

4.10 Then the description of this beast is given. What a strange beast it is. He is best described as a mongrel beast.

4.11 Parts of it look like a leopard, parts of it look like a bear and parts of it look like a lion.

4.12 This again is a symbol, but what in the world is John talking about?

4.13 In Scripture if you want to understand a portion that is giving trouble, we should look for another portion of Scripture that casts light on that which is puzzling.

4.14 The best interpreter of Scripture, as we have seen, is Scripture itself. And so we best look to our prophecy in Daniel 7.

4.14.1 This we like to call in this church a "categorical study."

4.15 There are many parallels between Revelation 13 and Daniel 7 just as we have seen many parallels in Daniel chapter two and eight.

4.16 Daniel had been carried captive into Babylon in 606 B.C.

4.16.1 He knew in studying Jeremiah's prophecy that God had announced that the people of Judah would remain in captivity in Babylon for seventy years.

4.17 Daniel is turning this over in his mind. What is God's program for Israel now that Israel has been carried captive into Babylon?

4.18 In fact, when this vision was given to Daniel, the people of Israel had been in captivity for approximately 70 years.

4.18.1 As best we can tell by comparing Scripture with history, the year is c. 537 B.C. and seventy years from 606 is 536. The time is nigh says Daniel so please God let me know something, do not forget us?

4.19 Daniel is asking "What was God's program for Israel?" God is about to reveal Himself and His plan and His purpose.

4.20 In Dan 7:1 recall, "Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream." And this is what he wrote: "And four great beasts," (verse 3) "came up from the sea."

4.21 There's the sea again, the Gentile nations. Four beasts would arise from among the Gentile nations different one from another--four separate identifiable empires.

4.22 The first one was like a lion, verse 4. The second one, in verse 5, was like a bear. The third one, verse 6, was like a leopard. The fourth one, in verse 7, is described not so much from its external characteristics, as its internal character.

Dan 7:4 "The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it.

Dan 7:5 "And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!'

Dan 7:6 "After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.

Dan 7:7 "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast--terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

4.23 And so we find here the beasts of Revelation Chapter 13 are only an expansion and an enlargement of portions of what was given to Daniel so many centuries before.

4.24 As we look again into Daniel 7 we are not left to scratch our heads as to the significance of these beasts, because it is made very clear in Dan 7:17.

Dan 7:17 The four great beasts are four world empires which will arise out from the turmoil of planet earth to be ultimately destroyed ...

4.25 God did not leave Daniel to puzzle over this strange dream. "These great beasts ... are four kings"

4.26 Each beast represents an empire which would consecutively arise. Each has its own king.

4.27 The first one was like a lion with wings. No one would have to interpret this to a person living in ancient Babylon.



4.28 Dwight Pentecost writes: "If you go to museums in either Germany or London, you will find Ishtar Gates that were taken from the ruins of ancient Babylon and reconstructed in those museums.

“Those gates were adorned with azure tiles, and placed in the walls; surrounding or in the center of those azure tiles were winged lions. They did not write a road sign to travelers proclaiming, this is Babylon for when the traveler entered those gates, he realized that he was coming to the capital of the Babylonian Empire. And so Babylon would be the first of the four empires.”

4.29 Babylon fell to a combination of two political powers, the Medes and the Persians. And that's why the second beast is a bear that is higher on one side

4.30 This is a lopsided bear because while the Medes and the Persians united to overthrow Babylon, the Persians soon overshadowed the Medes.

4.31 So in ancient history you don't study the Medo-Persian Empire, but rather the Persian Empire.



4.32 Then the third is like a leopard. The leopard had four wings.

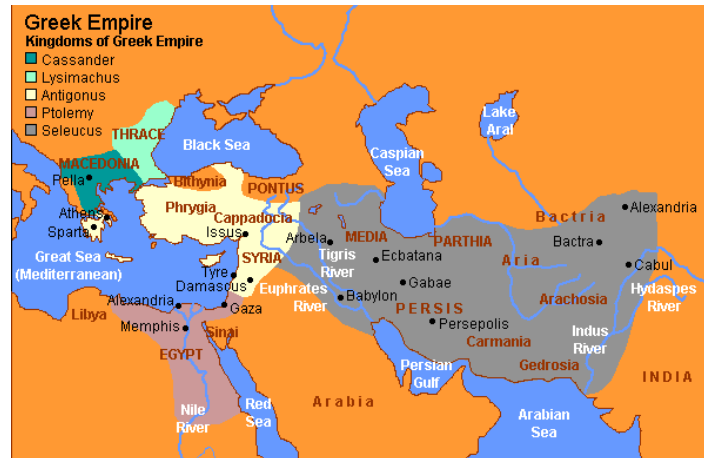
4.33 Alexander the Great, leader of the Grecian Empire, defeated the Persians.

4.34 After he extended his Empire from Macedonia to the Indus River, Alexander died at the young age of thirty-two. His wife and son were assassinated by Cassander. Ergo, Alexander had no heirs.

4.35 Five of his generals attempted to divide Alexander's hegemony. After a brief civil war Atigonus was eliminated leaving the vast domain to four aspirants.

4.36 His kingdom was finally divided among Ptolemy, Seleucus, Cassander, and Lysimachus.

4.37 Historians would no longer speak of the empire as Alexander's, but it would from that time forward be called "the Hellenist Empire."



4.38 Daniel will develop the details of this prophecy in Dan 11:4.

4.39 Quoting now from Dan 11:4 "Alexander will die prematurely at age 32. His heirs will be murdered and his kingdom divided. Ultimately Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and Seleucus will rule four Hellenistic empires."

4.40 In Revelation 13, John gives us the external appearance of this fourth beast. It was like a leopard and like a bear and like a lion.

4.41 You will notice that John mentions them in reverse order, because Daniel is looking from his historical perspective; they appear first as a lion, then a bear, then a leopard, and then the fourth.

4.42 John is living under the fourth, so he is looking backward. So what is nearest to him? It was the leopard, then the bear and lastly the lion. John and Daniel are describing the same vision.

4.43 And Daniel was told that Israel, during the course of her history would be controlled, dominated, ruled over and subjugated to four Gentile world powers.

4.44 God, just after the Exodus, made clear that obedience would bring blessing and disobedience disaster.

4.45 Further, in Deuteronomy 28, God said that He would deliver the people of Israel to the authority of Gentiles, and these Gentiles would rule over them.

4.46 Daniel is told that four gentile empires would rule over Israel during what our Lord called in Luke 21:24 the "times of the Gentiles."

4.47 The "times of the Gentiles" is that period in Israel's history when no Davidic descendant is ruling on David's earthly throne over David's earthly people.

4.48 The gentile dominance began with Nebuchadnezzar and it will continue until the return of Christ. Here in Daniel 7, Daniel is looking and wondering.

4.49 After introducing the fourth beast, he describes it as having ten horns. For Daniel the message is getting complicated.

4.50 Daniel pondered the significance of all this. He was taught:

4.51 "the ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he subdues 3 kings.

4.52 The ten horns are ten kings ruling ten separate kingdoms."

4.53 The fourth empire, given our hindsight is the Roman Empire that came to power by overthrowing the Greeks.



4.54 The Romans, as they swallowed up the territory that had been occupied by Greece, Medo-Persia, and Babylon, incorporated for themselves not only the land, but also the peoples, the cultures, the traditions, the laws, the customs and the religions of all these other peoples.

4.55 That is why this fourth beast is such a conglomerate. Part of it is Babylon, part of it is Medo-Persia; part of it is Greece and part of it is Rome.

4.56 In referring to the ten horns, Daniel is given the history of the Roman Empire to come.

4.57 In fact the fall of the Roman Empire would take place almost half a millennium after John wrote the book of the Revelation.

4.58 When the New Testament opens, Rome is at the zenith of its power, invincible, irresistible, dominate and in control.

4.59 But Daniel told us that there was going to be a division of the political power that had centralized in Rome among ten emerging nations.

4.60 Now this is spectacular. Where did Babylon get its power? By taking over the political power of Assyria and Egypt.

4.61 Where did Medo-Persia get its power? By taking over the political power of Babylon.

4.62 Where did Alexander get his political power? By taking over the political power of Medo-Persia.

4.63 Where did Rome get its power? By taking over the political power of Greece.

4.64 If Rome falls, and it did in the middle of the fifth century, what would you have expected from the history of empires?

4.65 You would have thought that those who defeated Rome, would take over the political power of Rome, and constitute themselves as a succeeding political unity.

4.66 Such was the history of empires. But what's Daniel telling us? God teaches in the case of Rome this will not happen! It would instead be divided out among ten separate identifiable nations.

4.67 What specifically happened? In the fifth century the Huns and the Goths from central and northern Europe crossed the Alps and sacked Rome.

4.68 They did not unite all the land that Rome had occupied under their authority, but rather many separate identifiable nations emerged.

4.69 Nations such as Greece and Italy and Spain and Portugal and France and Belgium and Holland and Great Britain had their origin as independent nations through the break up and the division of the political power of Rome.

4.70 Accordingly that fourth empire exists today not as one but as independent nations that exercise their own political power independently.

4.71 In Daniel chapter seven we are introduced to a political leader who will head up a reunited Roman Empire. Let me give you an expanded translation of Dan 7:7-28.

Dan 7:7 In a terrifying night vision, I saw a fourth beast, more terrifying, and frightening and powerful than the other three. It had huge iron teeth. What it didn't grind with its teeth it smashed with its feet. It was different from all the former beasts; it had ten horns coming out of its head.

Dan 7:8 While thinking about these horns, a little horn appeared before me. Three of the beast's horns were pulled up by the roots to make room for it. This horn had the eyes of a man speaking boastfully of the things that it would do; the little horn was particularly critical of God.

Dan 7:9 Suddenly my eyes were directed toward heaven. There I saw thrones being set in place by none other than God the Father, the Ancient of Days. He took His seat in the middle of the throne room. He wore a robe, as white as snow, signifying His absolute righteousness; the hair of His head was white and thick like wool, a sign of His earned respect. His throne was elevated, surrounded by flaming fire. The throne had wheels that were all ablaze, as a symbol of His omnipresence and severe judgment upon all who deny His authority, rule and protocol.

Dan 7:10 I saw a river of fire flowing, like a sea of lava, from the throne room of God. Vast numbers of angels stood before Him. I estimate their numbers in the billions. It was announced that the Supreme Court of Heaven would soon be in session. A large set of books were brought into the heavenly court room.

Dan 7:11 I watched, in amazement, as the little horn, the Antichrist, boasted of his greatness and power. I kept on watching until he was slain at the Second Advent of Christ. I watched further, as Christ ordered that the Antichrist's body be thrown into the blazing fire of Hades.

Dan 7:12 Satan and his demons were allowed to live. They were chained for the greater part of one thousand years in a fiery furnace below the earth. At the end of the millennial reign of Christ, they were released, but only for a short period of time.

Dan 7:13 I continued to dream. I saw the Messiah. He looked like the Son of Man, the incarnate Christ. He came clothed in the clouds of heaven, and was led before the throne of the Ancient of Days.

Dan 7:14 The Ancient of Days gave Christ all authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language were required to worship Him. The dominion given Him was an everlasting one; one which would not pass away, a dominion that would never be destroyed.

Dan 7:15 My vision caused me to become overwrought. I did not understand the meaning of what I had dreamed, and worse, I felt terrible pain for my people Israel.

Dan 7:16 I asked one of the angels, "What is the meaning of what I have dreamed?" An angel began an extensive explanation of my dream.

Dan 7:17 "The four great beasts are four world empires which will rise out from the turmoil of planet earth.

Dan 7:18 Ultimately, however, God's forever family will take possession of a new earth. They will live forever in a state of absolute happiness."

Dan 7:19 I was greatly puzzled and wanted to know more of the fourth beast. This beast was different from all the others. It was certainly more terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws. It crushed and devoured its victims, trampling them underfoot. This beast showed no mercy whatsoever.

Dan 7:20 I, Daniel, also wanted the angel to tell me more about the ten horns. I was especially interested in the horn that looked more imposing than the others; the one that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully against all authority.

Dan 7:21 While I was looking, this little horn, the Antichrist, attacked and defeated God's chosen people.

Dan 7:22 God, the Most High, the Eternal One, then intervened in favor of His chosen people. The time had arrived for the people of God to receive Christ's earthly kingdom.

Dan 7:23 Then I was told by an angel standing nearby, "The fourth beast will be the fourth kingdom to appear on earth. It will be different from all the others. It will trample the earth and crush it to pieces.

Dan 7:24 The ten horns you saw are ten kings ruling ten sovereign nations. They will align themselves by treaty, forming a federation. From one of the lesser kingdoms the Antichrist will arise. He will quickly strike and conquer two of the ten nations. He will be a military and political genius; as a result, this little horn will be elected chairman of a powerful European federation headquartered in Rome.

Dan 7:25 "He speaks against God and oppresses those who profess Christianity. He even changes the calendar and replaces national laws with international laws. Under the permissive will of God, the saints of planet earth are handed over to him for three and one-half years.

Dan 7:26 The Antichrist will establish himself as the military, political, religious and economic ruler of all the earth. In the third heaven all attention was directed to the throne room where the Supreme Court sat in session. The court ruled that all power was to be taken away from the Antichrist. The Antichrist and his associate, the False Prophet, were to be cast into the lake of fire.

Dan 7:27 The court declared the kingdoms of the earth will be placed under the saints of God. Christ will be made ruler over both heaven and earth. He will rule all peoples and nations. Their leaders will worship and obey Him."

Dan 7:28 And there it ended. I, Daniel, was in shock, and deeply troubled by what I had seen. I was like a man who had seen a ghost. I decided to keep the matter to myself.

4.72. In verse 21 the Antichrist is seen winning and then in verse 22 Daniel gives us a look at the coming deliverance of God's people and then in verse 23 he revisits the perverse nature and power of the Antichrist.

5. Let me summarize several principles found in the Book of Daniel regarding the Antichrist.

- Now Daniel is told ten kings will be transformed from a ten nation federation to an international One World Government. Let's speak to this point of "One World Government" under the Antichrist.

- As Daniel was looking at these ten emerging kingdoms there came up among them a little horn.
- Now if each of the ten horns represents a king, we must conclude the little horn is another king who emerges from among the ten.
- He is called little because he is seen as having an insignificant beginning. Nobody paid any attention to him; he was inconsequential. But then he quickly gained power over three of the original ten horns.
- Daniel sees emerging from this political figure of insignificance a change. Nobody paid any attention at first, but soon the world will take special notice of him.

6. This little horn is the subject of the rest of Daniel's prophecy from Daniel 7:8 to the end of the chapter.

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."

7. Let's review again the appellatives used of the Antichrist.

7.1 In chapter 8 verse 23 he is the "king of fierce countenance" or as the NIV translates "a stern faced king, a master of intrigue."

Dan 8:23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, "a king of fierce countenance," and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.

7.2 In Dan 9:26, he is called "the prince that shall come."

Dan 9:26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of "the prince that shall come" shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

7.3 In Dan 11:36, he is "the king that does according to his own will," or as some have translated "the willful king."

Dan 11:36 And "the king shall do according to his will;" and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

7.4 His likeness is called "the abomination of desolation" in Mat 24:15.

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:)

8. So over and over again, Daniel enlarges on the work, the ministry, the activity of this one who emerges from among the nations that had their origin in the break-up of the old Roman Empire.

9. Now let's go back to the book of the Revelation. Our purpose here is to show how the prophecies of Daniel and John track. Though written half a millennium apart, and yet the two are remarkably close.

10. If you look in Rev 17:8, you will find that John reintroduces us to a beast.

Rev 17:8 The beast, (Satan) which you saw, once was, [in time] now is not, [chained for the millennium] and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction [at the end of millennium]. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the Book of Life from the creation of the world will be ashamed and astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.

11. This beast of Rev 17:8 will indwell the beast of Rev 13:1.

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.

12. In Rev 17:12 we find, "The ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings in their independent kingdoms. They are not united; they are divided." Clearly this is a description of the "original ten nation federation from which the Antichrist will ultimately rule."

Rev 17:12 "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast.

13. And John in this same verse 12 notes that this beast has not yet come on the world scene, for he says, "they have received no kingdoms yet."

14. John was living under a united Rome, not a divided Rome. God tells John just as Gabriel told Daniel to anticipate a division into ten separate kingdoms.

15. Rev 17:13 states, "These," that is these ten separate kingdoms, they will "have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast."

Rev 17:13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

16. Notice this one who has been ruling over three of the ten is invited, is elected, is appointed, to be head over the ten nations that have existed as ten independent kingdoms, or ten independent horns.

17. We have no clue as to how long the original Federation exists as "ten horns."

18. Once the Antichrist establishes his rule, John tells us in Revelation chapter thirteen verse seven "it was given unto him to make war with the saints," it goes on to say "and to overcome them."

Rev 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

19. It is interesting to note the last part of this verse. Power was given him, not just over the ten that have elected him: "power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."

20. In the book of the Revelation that phrase, "all kingdoms, and tongues, and nations," refers to his international authority and international power.

21. That is why more than one respected expositor of eschatology has referred to it as a coming one world government.

22. Now, Satan is not an innovator, he's an imitator. Satan knows full well God's purpose is to enthrone His Son as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

23. God said in Psalm 2:6 that He had set His Son on a throne in the holy hill of Zion that is in Jerusalem.

Psa 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

Psa 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,

Psa 2:3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

Psa 2:4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Psa 2:5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

Psa 2:6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

24. When that Son comes to reign as Isaiah 9:6 says, He will bear the name Prince of Peace.

Isa 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

25. I want to spend a little time with this very important subject of Satan as an imitator:

25.1 As we have seen John in his epistles warns believers that there are already many "antichrists" in the world.

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.

1Jo 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

1Jo 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

2Jo 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

25.2 He is not talking about several eschatological characters, he is speaking of the plan and purpose of Satan to deceive believers by promulgating a lie.

25.3 But in our verses here in Daniel and in the several related Revelation passages we do find a reference to an eschatological character.

25.4 I have previously taught you the prefix anti in the Greek can have two meanings: it can mean "against," as in against Christ or it can mean "a substitute for another."

25.4.1 Both have application when it comes to the Antichrist.

25.5 Satan as the indweller of the Antichrist comes as a substitute for Christ though also being against Christ.

25.6 He comes for example as a master of deception in which he says to the world, "I am the prince of peace, I can solve the world's political unrest, and if you submit to me I will institute a reign of peace now, right here on earth."

25.7 We can read Dan 9:27 for the how to: "he confirms the covenant with many for one week," that is seven years.

25.8 The many is a reference to Daniel's people Israel. The Antichrist comes to power professing to be able to solve the world's problems, and the first problem he attacks is, the Middle East Crisis, the conflict between Israel and the Arabs over who has the right to live in the Holy Land.

25.9 This one makes a covenant with the nation of Israel guaranteeing their peace, their security, their well-being, their welfare in their own land.

25.10 When Israel receives that kind of a guarantee, Israel joins herself with the beast, with this little horn, this prince that shall come, and becomes in effect an eleventh horn in that federation.

25.11 For those of us with doctrine we can certainly see the Satanic deception. What do the people of Israel want and need today more than anything else?

25.12 Secure borders, peace, and freedom from terrorism. What does this one promise them?

25.13 "If you put yourself under my protection, then I will guarantee all these things" promises the Beast. And Israel in her hardness and coldness of heart says, "This must be our Messiah, this is our Christ."

25.14 But he is anti-Christ, he is opposed to Christ, and at the same time he is a substitute for Christ.

25.15 I see the first part of this individual as a political ruler, imitating the reign of Christ because when Christ returns to this earth the second time to rule and to reign, He unites all kingdoms under His authority.

25.15.1 "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever." Rev 11:15

25.16 The Antichrist, indwelt by Satan becomes, a failed facsimile of what God will one day do.

25.17 In addition to being the one who will provide peace and stability to Israel as a national entity by "political expertise," he also becomes head of a "one world economy."

26. I want to give you several points about the role assumed by the indwelt one as the world's economic minister

26.1 Rev 13:16-17 declares, "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: 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."

26.2 When this One becomes head of a one world government, he institutes a one world economy.

26.3 And he demands not only absolute submission to his political power, but absolute submission to his economic authority as well, so that no one can buy or sell anything unless he has the sign of submission to his authority.

26.4 Now why is this so crucial? If you look back in Revelation chapter 6, we have a record of the first in a series of divine judgments poured out during the Tribulation period.

26.4.1 The third of the six seals speaks of economic bad times. God makes it very difficult for "the beast to feed the world."

26.5 The third seal is described in verses five and six. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th seals occur during the Great Tribulation.

Rev 6:5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

Rev 6:6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

End Lesson Taught 12-5-2001

Revelation

Lesson 97

12-12-2001

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the book of the Revelation. We are in lesson ninety-seven

1.1 Before we do though let's remember the application of 1Jo 1:9 as might be necessary.

2. Last week I taught Rev 13:1-10 and then gave you an extensive categorical study of the Antichrist. When time expired we had just begun a study of the False Prophet as the second beast described in Revelation chapter 13.

Now let's continue our study of the Second Beast, 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.

NIV

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, 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 first beast 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.

6. The earth usually means Israel and therefore this character is most likely a Jew and Satan's facade of fulfillment of the prophecy of Elijah as 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 translated literally reads, "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 rebuilt 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.

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 "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.

19. Alford's extensive remarks, though in part contrary to much of that which we have seen, are worthy of mention - if for no other reason to see how others have thought.

"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 1st and 2nd 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 2nd 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 insouciant of student would find such allegations specious.

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

24. More likely would be the Antichrist purporting to be the Messiah and the False Prophet alleging himself 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 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 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, purport those who believe He claims Messiahship, are like a lamb, showing that he will try to imitate the real Lamb, Jesus Christ.

33. Millions of people, they claim, will fall for his deception and sincerely believe this False Prophet to be the long awaited Jewish Messiah.

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 Beast tackles the project, 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. We are not however here talking about the solution [the 144,000], but rather we are talking about one of 2 instigators of the problem, the 2nd beast. The problem is a product of world view thinking two "saviors" can the world's problems.

38. At the time of the coming of the two "saviors", the world will be reeling from some terrible problem and the 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."

39. 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!

40. 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.

41. 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."

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

42.1 he exercises unlimited authority (verse 12)

42.2 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.

42.3 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,

42.4 he deceives the population (verse 14)

42.5 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.

42.6 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.

42.7 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:

43. 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.

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.

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

KJV

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 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 return and 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).

Act 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 worshipping 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 position of others: "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, it becomes the center of the false worship of the world ruler.

End Lesson Taught 12-12-2001

Revelation

Lesson 98

12-19-2001

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the book of the Revelation. We are in lesson ninety-eight

1.1 Before we do though let's remember the application of 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.

2. Last week I taught in part Rev 13:11-12 and when time ran out I was in the process of teaching several principles gleaned from these verses.

3. Let me review some of that learned last week and then I will continue with our analysis. To begin that review I want to provide an expanded translation of verses one through twelve:

Rev 13:1 And the devil looked out on planet earth's swirling mass of humanity; he viewed the confusion of the gentile world as opportunity. Then I saw the Antichrist arise out from the confused skein of the nations. There was a ten nation federation ruling Europe and from one of the smallest of the ten the Antichrist rose to power; soon he took over two other nations and then finally he became ruler over all ten; each of the ten leaders served as blasphemous heads of state in open opposition to God.

Rev 13:2 John said the Antichrist resembled a leopard, with feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. A dragon gave the beast his power, a throne and great authority; the animal symbols represented three of the four major gentile empires of time past: the leopard, Alexander, the bear, the Medo-Persians and the lion, Babylon; soon to come but not yet revealed would be the Revived Roman Empire.

Rev 13:3 The Antichrist sustained a fatal wound, but was miraculously resuscitated. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast as their political and spiritual leader.

Rev 13:4 Most of the world, though not aware, were worshiping Satan because the dragon indwelt the Antichrist and gave authority and power to him; this power included a strong military presence; those who worshiped the new world leader were absolutely devoted and impressed; they asked, "Who is like the Antichrist? Who can make war against him?"

Rev 13:5 The Antichrist was given great wisdom to blaspheme God and His Word; he ruled as a despot during the last forty-two months of the Tribulation.

Rev 13:6 Both the Antichrist and the False Prophet took great pleasure in blaspheming God, slandering His name and the Third Heaven and those who lived there.

Rev 13:7 The Antichrist in the last half of the Tribulation was given by Satan the power to make war against the believers of the Tribulation and to conquer them; all of this of course is done under the permissive will of God. And he was given authority over all the peoples of the world.

Rev 13:8 The nations of the world and all the unbelieving citizens therein could be seen worshiping the Antichrist as God--that is to say all those whose names had been removed from the book of life belonging to the Lamb; the Lamb being the Lord Jesus Christ Who was slain in eternity past before time was.

Rev 13:9 If you have a lick of sense you will pay attention to what is here being said.

Rev 13:10 If you live in the Tribulation and you are going to be incarcerated for the cause of Christ then so be it; it is God's will. If you are to be executed, so be it, it is God's will. This age will call for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints of God but at the end of the seven years the Saints of God will be vindicated.

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.

Now let's continue with our study Rev 13:13 and 14:

KJV

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?

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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.

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

10. We have just seen where his workers change themselves into ministers of righteousness, cast out devils and do miracles in the name of Jesus; In Egypt they did the same thing Moses and Aaron did in the presence of Pharaoh therefore we should not be surprised if they don't fake a mighty convincing resuscitation.

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 again as the one which had the wound by a sword and did live.

13. The beast is both the empire and its ruler.

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 position of others: "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 rather 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 its specific facsimile, it 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.

KJV

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 an 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.

17. Now for Rev 13:18 and the number of the beast.

KJV

Rev 13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

NIV

Rev 13:18 This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666.

1. Special attention is given in verse 18 to the number of the beast, 666.

1.1 The number is introduced by the phrase "Here is wisdom," and the appeal is made to those of understanding to count the number of the beast which is the number of a man.

2. There has been endless speculation concerning the meaning of this number.

3. Walvoord has written: "In attempting to solve the riddle of this verse, some have considered the phrase to represent Caesar, others Nero or Caligula. The explanation is rather complicated. Letters in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek had numerical equivalents and accordingly many have come up with various names for the First Beast.

4. The simplest explanation is perhaps the best, that the triple six is the number of a man, each digit falling short of the perfect number seven.

5. Six in the Scripture is man's number. He was to work six days and rest the seventh.
 6. The image of Nebuchadnezzar was sixty cubits height and six cubits broad.
 7. Whatever may be the deeper meaning of the number, it implies that this title of the first beast, Satan's master piece, limits him to man's level which is far short of the deity of Christ.
 8. Chapter 13, taken as a whole, is one of the great prophetic chapters of Scripture and is the only passage which presents in any detail the two principal characters of the end of the age who form with Satan an unholy trinity.
 9. Here is clearly presented the fact that the head of the revived Roman Empire ultimately becomes the ruler of the entire world Dominated by Satan, he is Satan's masterpiece and substitute for Christ, and is aided and supported by the second beast called the false prophet, just as John the Baptist served Christ during His incarnation.
 10. Many have alluded to the contrast of this evil trinity with the heavenly Trinity, Satan corresponding to God the Father, the first beast corresponding to Christ, and the second beast corresponding to the Holy Spirit.
 11. George W. Davis expresses a common view that this is a false trinity: "This trinity will consist of Satan as God, Antichrist, the counterfeit of Christ, as Christ, and the false prophet, a travesty on the Holy Spirit."
 12. Expositors, as we have noted, have not agreed entirely as to the alleged identity of these two characters as revealed in other passages of Scripture.
 - 12.1 Walvoord writes: "The preferable view seems to be that the first beast in Revelation thirteen is the "little horn" of Dan 7:8, "the prince that shall come" of Daniel 9:26, the willful king of Dan 11:36-45, and the man of sin, or the lawless one, of 2Th 2:3."
- 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.
- Dan 9:26 And ... the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.
- Dan 11:36 "The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place.

Dan 11:37 He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all.

Dan 11:38 Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his fathers he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts.

Dan 11:39 He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price.

Dan 11:40 "At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood.

Dan 11:41 He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand.

Dan 11:42 He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape.

Dan 11:43 He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Nubians in submission.

Dan 11:44 But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many.

Dan 11:45 He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

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.

13. Some prefer to identify the willful king of Daniel 11 and the man of sin in Second Thessalonians 2 as the second beast of Revelation 13.

14. The term "Antichrist" is variously assigned either to the first or second beast or by some to neither.

15. Among premillennial expositors, the trend seems to be to identify all of these terms with the first beast and relegate the second beast to a subordinate role as a religious rather than a political ruler.

15.1 The expression "the God of his fathers" in Dan 11:37 seems to make the king a Jew although it certainly could be translated "gods" in keeping with the Hebrew Elohim which would remove any Jewish character from the phrase.

16. The Hebrew appellative Elohim is in many places properly translated in the singular, but it is not specifically singular and therefore could be translated plural.

17. Walvoord again has written:

"The appeal often made to the phrase "his fathers," while it is a familiar one in reference to Israel, obviously cannot be limited to the Israelite race, as others have predecessors also; and in the case of the heathen their gods could be referred to as "the gods of their fathers. It would seem unlikely that either of the two beasts of Revelation 13 will be a Jew inasmuch as they both persecute the Jewish people and are the final Roman rulers of the times of the Gentiles."

18. As you may recall I do not share 'Dr. Walvoord's conclusions. It is my view that the Antichrist is a gentile and the False Prophet is a Jew.

19. Whatever the ethnic backgrounds, the time of the Great Tribulation is a time of absolute rule, and Satan will have his way.

End Lesson Taught 12-19-2001

Revelation

Lesson 99

12-26-2001

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the book of the Revelation. We are in lesson ninety-nine.

1.1 Before we do though let's remember the application of 1Jo 1:9 as might be necessary.

2. Last week I taught in part Rev 13:13-18 and when time ran out I was in the process of teaching several principles gleaned from verse eighteen.

3. Let me review some of that learned last week. To begin that review I want to provide an expanded translation of verses one through seventeen:

Rev 13:1 And the devil looked out on planet earth's swirling mass of humanity; he viewed the confusion of the gentile world as opportunity. Then I saw the Antichrist arise out from the confused skein of the nations. There was a ten nation federation ruling Europe and from one of the smallest of the ten the Antichrist rose to power; soon he took over two other nations and then finally he became ruler over all ten; each of the ten leaders served as blasphemous heads of state in open opposition to God.

Rev 13:2 John said the Antichrist resembled a leopard, with feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. A dragon gave the beast his power, a throne and great authority; the animal symbols represented three of the four major gentile empires of time past: the leopard, Alexander, the bear, the Medo-Persians and the lion, Babylon; soon to come but not yet revealed would be the Revived Roman Empire.

Rev 13:3 The Antichrist sustained a fatal wound, but was miraculously resuscitated. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast as their political and spiritual leader.

Rev 13:4 Most of the world, though not aware, were worshiping Satan because the dragon indwelt the Antichrist and gave authority and power to him; this power included a strong military presence; those who worshiped the new world leader were absolutely devoted and impressed; they asked, "Who is like the Antichrist? Who can make war against him?"

Rev 13:5 The Antichrist was given great wisdom to blaspheme God and His Word; he ruled as a despot during the last forty-two months of the Tribulation.

Rev 13:6 Both the Antichrist and the False Prophet took great pleasure in blaspheming God, slandering His name and the Third Heaven and those who lived there.

Rev 13:7 The Antichrist in the last half of the Tribulation was given by Satan the power to make war against the believers of the Tribulation and to conquer them; all of this of course is done under the permissive will of God. And he was given authority over all the peoples of the world.

Rev 13:8 The nations of the world and all the unbelieving citizens therein could be seen worshiping the Antichrist as God--that is to say all those whose names had been removed from the book of life belonging to the Lamb; the Lamb being the Lord Jesus Christ Who was slain in eternity past before time was.

Rev 13:9 If you have a lick of sense you will pay attention to what is here being said.

Rev 13:10 If you live in the Tribulation and you are going to be incarcerated for the cause of Christ then so be it; it is God's will. If you are to be executed, so be it, it is God's will. This age will call for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints of God but at the end of the seven years the Saints of God will be vindicated.

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.

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.

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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.

Now let's return to our analysis of verse eighteen and the number of the beast.

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12. The Hebrew appellation Elohim is in many places properly translated in the singular, but it is not specifically singular and therefore could be translated plural and thus possibly refer to "gods" with a little "g."

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14. As you may recall I do not square 'Dr. Walvoord's conclusions. It is my view that the Antichrist is a gentile and the False Prophet is a Jew. Whatever the ethnic backgrounds, the time of the Great Tribulation is a time of absolute rule, and Satan will have his way.

15. The ultimate in false religion will sweep the entire world in a manifestation of evil never before seen on earth.

15.1 This fact will be demonstrated beyond question that man is not able to solve his own problems and only God can bring righteousness and peace to the earth.

15.2 The present attempts at unification of ecclesiastical and political power seem to be the forerunner and preparation for this end time situation.

16. That the spirit of the Antichrist is in the world and working today is clear given the present emphasis throughout the world, and particularly the United States, on developing number identification for all citizens.

17. New laws now require that every U.S. citizen receive a social security number by the time he enters the first grade and this number shall be his identifying number all his life.

17.1 It now serves in lieu of a man's selective service and/or a military serial number. No doubt it will eventually also replace his driver's license number. In fact, for a number of years the banking system of this country has been inundated with a mass of paper both from checks and credit card expenditures.

18. The problem has become such a crisis that serious studies are being undertaken to devise a "paper less society," one in which all food, bills, services, etc., will be paid for by a person's personal credit card number instead of money or checks.

19. In order for this to work, everyone must have a number; this could, declare many, be the forerunner of the required mark imposed during the Tribulation.

20. What will happen to the millions of people who succumb to the False Prophet's threats and receive the Beast's number? John gives us the answer: "If any man worships the Beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb" (Revelation 14:9, 10).

21. In closing let me give you an expanded translation of Rev 13:18:

Expanded Translation:

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.

22. Now we are ready to leave the description of the two beasts and move to "THE VICTORY OF THE LAMB AND HIS FOLLOWERS" - 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.

4. 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.

End Lesson Taught 12-26-2001

