

The End Times and Last Days – “What to Expect and How to Prepare”

Lesson 24

“The Assassination and Resurrection of the Anti-Christ”

An eerie supernatural event will happen that will catapult the Anti-Christ to global worship as god will be his death and restoration in life:

Rev. 13:3-4 “I saw that one of the heads of the beast seemed wounded beyond recovery—but the fatal wound was healed! The whole world marveled at this miracle and gave allegiance to the beast. 4They worshiped the dragon for giving the beast such power, and they also worshiped the beast. “Who is as great as the beast?” they exclaimed. “Who is able to fight against him?”

Rev. 17:8 “Why are you so amazed?” the angel asked. “I will tell you the mystery of this woman and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns on which she sits. 8The beast you saw was once alive but isn’t now. And yet he will soon come up out of the bottomless pit and go to eternal destruction. And the people who belong to this world, whose names were not written in the Book of Life before the world was made, will be amazed at the reappearance of this beast who had died.”

Theologians debate various opinions about these texts if they are speaking about the death and resurrection of a person, or of something else?

And is it a real resurrection, or is it faked?

Question #1: Person or Empire?

Some believe the death and resurrection of the Beast of Rev. 13 refers to the fall of the Roman Empire in AD 476 and its resuscitation in the end times.

Is this talking about a **person** or an **empire**?

Its true Rev. 13 & 17 represent both the empire and its emperor.

EX: Nebuchadnezzar was the embodiment of Babylon.

Dan. 2 pictures Baylon as the head of gold on a great statue, but Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar, “You are the head of gold.” Dan. 2:38.

These verses suggest it is the ruler and not a kingdom or empire:

Three reasons:

1. The language of Rev. 13 appears to be referring to an individual, as the pronouns he and his are used repeatedly.
 - The second beast of Rev. 13:11-18 builds an idol to the first beast, and this would be strange if it were an empire instead of a person.
2. Would an entire world be awestruck by the revival of the Roman Empire? NO!
When the beast is slain and comes back to life, “the whole earth is amazed and follows this beast” – Rev. 13:3.

3. It would be difficult to comprehend how a kingdom could be slain by a sword?
So, it's most probably the leader of the revived Roman Empire as the primary figure in view of Rev. 13:1-10.

Question #2: Is the resurrection of the beast during the Tribulation an **actual occurrence** or is it **fake** to deceive people?

Many Bible scholars argue that satan does not have power to give life, so this death and resurrection is illusion.

The Lord does have the power to resurrect the dead.

The Bible teaches the Anti-Christ will actually die and come back to life and it's a real resuscitation.

Biblical Evidence:

1. satan's increased power

During the Tribulation, the restrainer will be removed and satan will be unleashed in ways never seen before.

- Once the church is removed at the Rapture, satan will be more active with God sending the spirit of delusion "so they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness."
2Thess 2:11-12 NASB
- With this increased power, satan will be able to raise the Anti-Christ back to life.

Rev 13:3 tells us the "beast will have a fatal wound that was healed."

Also, the false prophet makes the earth and those who dwell in it worship the first beast. V. 12.

v. 14 "deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs given to him to perform."

v. 15 "gives breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak."

Satan has power to give to a dead idol, then he also will have power to resurrect a man from the dead.

Rev. 13 uses the refrain: "And it was given to him...and the beast was allowed."

The Lord is the One permitting the Anti-Christ to conduct his plans.

Signs – Wonders - Miracles

2. Jesus, Paul, and John describe satan's miraculous works with the very same language used to describe Jesus' miracles:

Matt 24:24; 2Thess 2:9; Rev 13:13-15; 16:13-14; 19:20

Matt 24:24 “For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God’s chosen ones.” NLT

2Thess 2:9 “This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles.” New Living Translation

Rev 13:13-15 “And he required all the earth and its people to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. **13**He did astounding miracles, even making fire flash down to earth from the sky while everyone was watching. **14**And with all the miracles he was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast, he deceived all the people who belong to this world. He ordered the people to make a great statue of the first beast, who was fatally wounded and then came back to life. **15**He was then permitted to give life to this statue so that it could speak. Then the statue of the beast commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die.”

16:13-14 “And I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs leap from the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. **14**They are demonic spirits who work miracles and go out to all the rulers of the world to gather them for battle against the Lord on that great judgment day of God the Almighty.”

19:20 “And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.”

These works of satan are presented as true works of a miraculous.

Sign: the word attributed to both the works of Jesus and satan.

Wonder: occurs 16 times in the NT always coupled with the word sign.

The Tribulation period is when the Lord God Almighty permits satan to use miracles to deceive those who are rejecting Jesus as Lord.

Slain and has come to Life:

Rev 13:3, 12 describes the fatal wound to the beast.

“I saw that one of the heads of the beast seemed wounded beyond recovery—but the fatal wound was healed! The whole world marveled at this miracle and gave allegiance to the beast.

He exercised all the authority of the first beast. And he required all the earth and its people to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.”

Rev 5:6 describes the Lamb as slain which is the same words used of he wound received by the beast.

“Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings and among the twenty-four elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the sevenfold Spirit of God that is sent out into every part of the earth.”

The same words are used to describe the slaying of both:

So, if the slaying of Christ were a literal death, the slaying of the Anti-Christ is also a literal death.

It's the Anti-Christ's corruption and imitation of what the true Lord has done to deceive those who reject the True Lamb.

But the wound will be healed, and he will come back to life from the abyss of death.

The same words are used for Christ's resurrection as are used for the Anti-Christ's resurrection: *ezen* – The one who was dead and has come to life – Rev. 2:8, 13:14.

Rev 17:8, 11 supports this when it refers to the beast, which “was and is not” ^{NASB}

“The beast you saw was once alive but isn't now. And yet he will soon come up out of the bottomless pit and go to eternal destruction. And the people who belong to this world, whose names were not written in the Book of Life before the world was made, will be amazed at the reappearance of this beast who had died.”

“The scarlet beast that was, but is no longer, is the eighth king. He is like the other seven, and he, too, is headed for destruction.”

The idea of this is that - The beast has two comings:

1. He appears first as the beast...out of the sea – Rev. 13:, then after his resurrection,
2. He appears first as the beast...out of the abyss – Rev. 17:8

God is the One who enables satan and his disciples to do these things in a similar way in which He would use any human instrument to work genuine miracles.

It is not impossible the Anti-Christ should return to life because of the unique status of the Tribulation and the increased capacity of satanic power during that time.

The Lord will allow and permit him to do these things.

This event will happen at the midpoint of the Tribulation and will coincide with satan's being cast of heaven – Rev 12:12.

Realizing his time is running out, satan will duplicate the resurrection of Christ and indwell the Anti-Christ.

Sad to say that during this period on earth; the universal worship and homage will be given to the beast empowered by satan to exalt the Anti-Christ.

This event will launch the world into its final dark era – The Great Tribulation – when the beast will make his “mark” known.