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Pastor John W. Brown

Calvary Chapel Central Phoenix

REVELATION

## CHAPTER 13 THE UNHOLY TRINITY AND THE MARK OF THE BEAST

### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Last week we studied the war that will take place in Heaven as Michael the Archangel heads up an angelic army against the prince of the power of the air (**Eph. 2:2**) and his demons.
1. Michael wins of course, and satan is kicked out of the heaven and confined to the earth.
  2. That's good news for those in heaven, but satan pulls out all the stops on earth knowing that he has a short time. **REV 12:12**
  3. This morning's study will show us the results of satan pulling all the stops.
    - a) satan empowers 2 great warriors in this battle and one's mission is to cause the other to be worshipped as god!
    - b) They are referred to as, "beasts" here in chapter **REV 13**.
    - c) But later, in chapters **16, 19**, and **20** the latter beast is referenced as "*the false prophet*."
    - d) So we have before us the beastly trinity of the dragon (which is satan **REV 12:9**), the beast, and the false prophet.
      - (1) As we study them and their missions, you will see their "copycat" resemblance to the Holy Trinity of God!
        - (a) satan has always wanted to be worshipped as god!
        - (b) The beast is a logos of satan. He is a physical representative of his!
        - (c) And lastly, the false prophet glorifies the beast.

- II. **REVELATION 13:1-2 (NKJV)** **1 THEN I STOOD ON THE SAND OF THE SEA. AND I SAW A BEAST RISING UP OUT OF THE SEA, HAVING SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS, AND ON HIS HORNS TEN CROWNS, AND ON HIS HEADS A BLASPHEMOUS NAME. 2 NOW THE BEAST WHICH I SAW WAS LIKE A LEOPARD, HIS FEET WERE LIKE THE FEET OF A BEAR, AND HIS MOUTH LIKE THE MOUTH OF A LION. THE DRAGON GAVE HIM HIS POWER, HIS THRONE, AND GREAT AUTHORITY.**



- A. Remember - the two witnesses have already been slain by the beast!

1. Daniel calls him “the prince that shall come” (**Dan 9:26**).
2. Isaiah calls him “the wicked!” (**Isaiah 11:4**)
3. Christ called him “the abomination of desolation” (**Matt 24:16**)
4. Paul labeled him as “the man of sin, the son of perdition” in (**2 Thes. 2:3**)
5. Immediately prior to what we have just read - John had been watching the woman and the dragon when all of a sudden, he is standing on a seashore: observing a beast rising out of the sea similar in appearance to the dragon!
  - a) But it is not the dragon! Chapter **12:9** told us that the dragon was satan himself.
  - b) This beast rising up out of the sea represents a man, and verse **8** tells us the people of earth will physically worship him!
  - c) He gets his power from the dragon **Rev. 13:2**.
6. Usually, the sea referred to in scripture is the Mediterranean.
  - a) Therefore, it is commonly assumed that this beast-man will come from one of the lands surrounding the Mediterranean.
  - b) The 7 heads and 10 horns represent power and authority and in this case: a league of nations and leaders that are ultimately under the power of satan!
    - (1) Daniel saw a similar beast in **Daniel 8:23-26** (but it was a goat) and interpreted the lion as the Babylonian empire, the bear as the Medo-Persian empire, and the leopard as the Grecian empire!

**Daniel 8:23–26 (NKJV) — 23** “And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes. **24** His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and *also* the holy people. **25** “Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt *himself* in his heart. He shall destroy many in *their* prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without *human* means. **26** “And the vision of the evenings and mornings Which was told is true; Therefore seal up the vision, For *it refers* to many days *in the future*.”

- (a) History has proven that Daniel was correct.
- (b) All 3 of these empires have ruled or dominated God’s people in some way.
- c) Please keep in mind that out of this “league” will rise a very charismatic leader. This man is the beast.
  - (1) Now you might say, “Well, Pastor these are two different beasts.” However the power behind both is the same!

**III. REVELATION 13:3-4 (NKJV) 3** AND I SAW ONE OF HIS HEADS AS IF IT HAD BEEN MORTALLY WOUNDED, AND HIS DEADLY WOUND WAS HEALED. AND ALL THE WORLD MARVELED AND FOLLOWED THE BEAST. **4** SO THEY WORSHIPED THE DRAGON WHO GAVE AUTHORITY TO THE BEAST; AND THEY WORSHIPED THE BEAST, SAYING, “WHO IS LIKE THE BEAST? WHO IS ABLE TO MAKE WAR WITH HIM?”

A. Scripture doesn’t tell us from which nation this “head” will be!

1. We do know however that this nation will best suit the nature and purposes of the dragon, which empowers him.

- a) Wherever and whichever nation it is - it will also become the “center of worship” for the beast.
  - (1) All the nations as well as their respective religions will unite as they see this “suedo” death and resurrection of the beast!
  - (2) With all the flying angels and demons and the cosmic disturbances, no one will any longer doubt the existence of God.
  - (3) It is just that many will choose satan as god since he appears to be the most powerful.
    - (a) After all, he had power to overcome God’s two witnesses, and now seemingly death!!

**IV. REVELATION 13:5-6 (NKJV) 5 AND HE WAS GIVEN A MOUTH SPEAKING GREAT THINGS AND BLASPHEMIES, AND HE WAS GIVEN AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE FOR FORTY-TWO MONTHS. 6 THEN HE OPENED HIS MOUTH IN BLASPHEMY AGAINST GOD, TO BLASPHEME HIS NAME, HIS TABERNACLE, AND THOSE WHO DWELL IN HEAVEN.**

- A. During this last 3 1/3 years of the tribulation, the beast will curse and defame the Lord, His holiness, His love, His law, His grace, and His people.
  - 1. He has but a short time and can no longer stand before the Lord and accuse the brethren, so he turns it loose on those remaining on the earth.
  - 2. No doubt, to prevent any who might be thinking of giving their heart to the Lord!

**V. REVELATION 13:7-10 (NKJV) 7 IT WAS GRANTED TO HIM TO MAKE WAR WITH THE SAINTS AND TO OVERCOME THEM. AND AUTHORITY WAS GIVEN HIM OVER EVERY TRIBE, TONGUE, AND NATION. 8 ALL WHO DWELL ON THE EARTH WILL WORSHIP HIM, WHOSE NAMES HAVE NOT BEEN WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE OF THE LAMB SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD. 9 IF ANYONE HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR. 10 HE WHO LEADS INTO CAPTIVITY SHALL GO INTO CAPTIVITY; HE WHO KILLS WITH THE SWORD MUST BE KILLED WITH THE SWORD. HERE IS THE PATIENCE AND THE FAITH OF THE SAINTS.**

- A. These are not the resurrected saints, but those who will come to know the Lord during the tribulation!
  - 1. **Romans 8:29-30 (NKJV) 29** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. **30** Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.
  - 2. The Lord knows everyone who will accept Him, and their names are written in the book of life! These saints from the tribulation will not bow, at the cost of their own lives (he “**overcame them**”)!
  - 3. All the rest of the earth dwellers will bow and worship the beast.
  - 4. John begs, “Listen with your heart! (he who has ears)”
    - a) If any man has had a difficult time making a decision up ‘til now, the beast is about to force it.
    - b) John reassures the saints in **verse 10** that those responsible for the death of the saints will likewise be put to death! You see, the dispensation of

grace has ended.

**VI. REVELATION 13:11-12 (NKJV) 11 THEN I SAW ANOTHER BEAST COMING UP OUT OF THE EARTH, AND HE HAD TWO HORNS LIKE A LAMB AND SPOKE LIKE A DRAGON. 12 AND HE EXERCISES ALL THE AUTHORITY OF THE FIRST BEAST IN HIS PRESENCE, AND CAUSES THE EARTH AND THOSE WHO DWELL IN IT TO WORSHIP THE FIRST BEAST, WHOSE DEADLY WOUND WAS HEALED.**

- A. Here is the third member of hell's unholy trinity. A demonic "imitation" of the Holy Spirit, this **two horned, dragon mouthed, lamb's** mission is to cause people to worship the beast!
1. As we said earlier, he is called the "false prophet" three times later in Revelation.
  2. This second beast is the leader of the world religious system or the great "harlot" spoken of in **chapter 17**.
    - a) He could be a pope, or a preacher, or a guru, or a televangelist, but most likely, he will simply be called "the prophet".
      - (1) Or maybe I should say, "He will "pompously" be called "the prophet"
    - b) Somehow these two satanically empowered men will become the closest of friends.
    - c) While the first one is gaining world political power, the other will be gaining the world's confidence as the only true prophet of God!
    - d) Each supports the other and together they establish universal control over the people.

**VII. REVELATION 13:13-14 (NKJV) 13 HE PERFORMS GREAT SIGNS, SO THAT HE EVEN MAKES FIRE COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN ON THE EARTH IN THE SIGHT OF MEN. 14 AND HE DECEIVES THOSE WHO DWELL ON THE EARTH BY THOSE SIGNS WHICH HE WAS GRANTED TO DO IN THE SIGHT OF THE BEAST, TELLING THOSE WHO DWELL ON THE EARTH TO MAKE AN IMAGE TO THE BEAST WHO WAS WOUNDED BY THE SWORD AND LIVED.**

- A. You see the 2 witnesses of the Lord had made fire come down from heaven. The false prophet and the beast must not look inferior to the Lord!
1. **Matthew 24:24 (NKJV) 24 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.**
  2. **Thessalonians 2:9 (NKJV) 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,**
  3. **Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NKJV) 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**
    - a) His deception is very thorough!
    - b) We must learn from this - miracles are not necessarily of divine origin!
  4. Man seems to have a natural aptitude for worshipping "things". The "false prophet" gets little or no restraint as he commands worship of the beast.
    - a) I wouldn't be surprised if little images of the beast are made and sold so that every household can perform their daily worship of the beast?

- b) For sure there is a large image made for the world to view, and worship publically, (probably via satellite).

**VIII. REVELATION 13:15-17 (NKJV) 15 HE WAS GRANTED POWER TO GIVE BREATH TO THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST, THAT THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST SHOULD BOTH SPEAK AND CAUSE AS MANY AS WOULD NOT WORSHIP THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST TO BE KILLED. 16 HE CAUSES ALL, BOTH SMALL AND GREAT, RICH AND POOR, FREE AND SLAVE, TO RECEIVE A MARK ON THEIR RIGHT HAND OR ON THEIR FOREHEADS, 17 AND THAT NO ONE MAY BUY OR SELL EXCEPT ONE WHO HAS THE MARK OR THE NAME OF THE BEAST, OR THE NUMBER OF HIS NAME.**

- A. Soon after the image is formed, the prophet gives it the ability to talk, probably promoting himself and blaspheming God, and issuing commands to kill any who do not worship the image of the beast.
  - 1. The prophet immediately sets up “registration” centers to number and identify his worshippers.
    - a) He classifies them into 3 different groups:
      - (1) Those who have the “logo” (image) of the beast!
        - (a) This is probably the bulk of the population.
      - (2) Those who have the name of the beast!
        - (a) This is probably a little “closer” group that works closely for his plans and purposes.
      - (3) And those who have his name (or number)!
        - (a) Perhaps these are the inside circle!
          - (i) The point is this: without these identifiers, people will die!
          - (ii) Either by refusal of the marks, or by starvation.

**IX. CONCLUSION**

- A. **Revelation 13:18 (NKJV) 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.**
  - 1. The beast is a man!
  - 2. That man has a name!
  - 3. His name has a numerical equivalent!
  - 4. We are expected to count the number of this man’s name!
    - a) In English this seems weird, but in the Hebrew or the Greek language and in some cases Latin, it is not strange at all!
    - b) You see, each symbol used for the alphabet was also used for a number!
    - c) For example, in Latin V=five, X=10, L=50, and so on!
    - d) In Greek, the language of the New Testament, alpha = 1, beta = 2, iota = 10, rho = 100!
    - e) In the example I have just given, to “count” the number of the beast one would simply add up the numbers associated with the letters in his name!
      - (1) Is it Neurolink, is it a bar code implanted under the skin, is it not observing the Sabbath as some believe?
  - 5. Who is this man? No one knows!
    - a) During WWII, Christians said it was Hitler!

- b) In the 70's, folks said it was Kissinger!
- c) Now, the baton has been passed to Elon Musk, Bill Gates, George Soros, President Obama, President Trump and a few others.
  - (1) The point is this. Watch and be aware.
  - (2) Better yet, make your decision now, and you can watch all this from a seat in Heaven!