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Revelation 13:1-10 - The Rise of the Antichrist

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CAST OF CHARACTERS, REV 12-13

1. woman
2. dragon
3. child - Son
4. Michael
5. offspring
6. beast out of the sea
7. beast out of the earth

Last Week

The dragon/Satan - "adversary" ... **a great fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven crowns.** The dragon goes after the woman, and upon failing to get to her (she's rescued two distinct times by God's supernatural intervention), he goes after her "**offspring.**"

REVELATION 13:1-10 - The Beast from the Sea... the Antichrist

Identification with the beasts in Daniel 7

"Four huge beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other... suddenly a fourth beast appeared, frightening and dreadful, and incredibly strong, with large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and it trampled with its feet whatever was left. It was different from all the beasts

...had ten horns. While I was considering the horns, suddenly a little one, came up among them, and threw down the first three horns before it. And suddenly in this horn there were eyes like the

eyes of a human and a mouth that was speaking arrogantly... 'These huge beasts, four in number, are four kings who will rise from the earth... 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, different from all the other kingdoms. It will devour the whole earth, trample it down, and crush it. The ten horns are ten kings who will rise from this kingdom. Another king, different from the previous ones, will rise after them and subdue three kings. He will speak words against the Most High and oppress the holy ones of the Most High. He will intend to change religious festivals and laws, and the holy ones will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time. But the court will convene, and his dominion will be taken away, to be completely destroyed forever." (Daniel 7:3, 7-8, 17, 23-26)

Some believe that the beast is not a person but an empire since the beasts of Daniel are empires. However, with the dragon being a personal being, so must be the beast. (Osborne, 495)

The only use of "antichrist" is in the letters of John.

"Children, it is the last hour. And as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. By this we know that it is the last hour." (1 John 2:18)

"For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and **they will deceive many**. You are going to hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, because these things must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these events are the beginning of labor pains... Many false prophets will rise up and **deceive many**." (Matthew 24:5-8, 11)

"So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand..." (Matthew 24:15)

"...every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. **This is the spirit of the antichrist**, which you have heard is coming; even now it is already in

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the identity of Jesus and refuses to recognize him.

Wherever you see Jesus and the truth of the gospel denigrated..., twisted or rejected, you know that the spirit of the coming antichrist is present.

"A major function of the antichrist will be deceptive false teaching that leads many astray and results in the apostasy of huge numbers of professing Christians."

(Osborne, 493)

"Don't let anyone deceive you in any way. For that day will not come unless the **apostasy** comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction... The coming of the lawless one is based on Satan's working, with every kind of miracle, both signs and wonders serving the lie, and with every wicked **deception** among those who are perishing. They perish because they did not accept the love of the truth and so be saved."
(2 Thessalonians 2:3, 9-10)

"For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders **to deceive, if possible, even the elect**. See, I have told you ahead of time." (Matthew 24:24-25)

The re-emergence of the supernatural.

This will shock our western worldview that has embraced logic and rationality, science and empiricism, evidences and materialism as a new world religion since the enlightenment. But humanity was not always this ignorant of the spiritual realm.

Counterfeit - mimicking God.

The Unholy Trinity

1. The dragon - usurps role of God the Father
2. The beast from the sea - usurps role of Christ; "son" of the dragon; has his delegated authority - 10 horns, seven heads (same as dragon, 12:3)
3. The beast from the earth

> The resurrection of Jesus

"One of its heads appeared to be fatally wounded, but its fatal wound was healed." (3)

our head, and you will strike his heel." (Ge Save Copy to Evernote

An attempt to claim ineffectiveness of God's judgment against him. It will create awe and lead to the world being deceived > worship.

The worship of the people:

"Who is like the beast? Who is able to wage war against it?"

Parodies

- Who is like the the Lord... Exodus 15:11, 33:29, Psalm 35.:10, 113:5...
- And in chapter 12, Michael did. And won. A delegate. The antichrist is a poser.

In chapter 12, we saw that Satan operates through **deception and accusation**. The foundation of those are untruth. Satan's antichrist seeks to deceive people in order to coerce their worship (another imitation of God). He will do this through "remarkable displays of power." (Duvall, 192).

Deception, lies

"Some Christians today are incredibly gullible and ignorant when it comes to the whole issue of power. If the demonstration of power is magnificent enough, they will believe it. Christians need to be more knowledgeable about how God uses power and more discerning about the movies and purposes of those who grasp for power." (Duvall, 193)

To follow any government or government agency or world agency uncritically is to fail to use spiritual discernment. You are not a conspiracy theorist if you ask why or if you begin to see insidious motives behind worldly systems.

"Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the **schemes** of the devil." (Ephesians 6:12)

"For we are not ignorant of his **schemes**." (2 Corinthians 6:11)

SATANIC METHODS	SATANIC GOALS
• Lie	• One world government.

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 - False unity
 - Complete control/oppression

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Satanic Methods

- Lie
- Steal
- Kill
- Destroy

Satanic Goals:

- One world government.
- One world religion.
- False unity
- Complete control/oppression

Not all Muslims practice oppression...

Repeated use of "authority"

(13:2, 4, 5, 7, 12) Make no mistake. "Power" is what the antichrist will use.

"The ten horns you saw are **ten kings** who have not yet received a kingdom, but they will receive authority as kings with the beast for **one hour**. These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast." (Revelation 17:12-13)

The kingdoms prophesied in Daniel related to the **four beasts were fulfilled in the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Roman Empire**. John is instructed that there will be 10 more kings when he received this prophecy in the first century. This was received during the height of the Roman Empire, so it was meant to communicate to John and the church that what had found fulfillment would also find fulfillment again - it's the **telescoping** principle of prophecy we looked at last week.

The role of the antichrist is to operate with authority given to it by Satan, and to coalesce all earthly power and governments under his rule. He will demand

prematural signs, he will also demand worship. Next week
 ist from the earth, who will create a wo Save Copy to Evernote
 religion around the first beast, enforcing worship. All other religions will be
 outlawed and declared as disunifying and "hateful."

We see precedent for that today in the declaration that anyone speaking out against the new state religion of "anything goes sexuality" is guilty of "hate crimes."

"It was also given authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation."

We've seen secular power amassed into the hands of dynamic, charismatic, powerful leaders: 1st century Rome, Nazi Germany. The many "antichrists" of 1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7.

Important to remember that governmental power is given by God for the good of people. Romans 13 teaches us:

"Let everyone submit to the governing authorities, since there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are instituted by God... For it is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because it does not carry the sword for no reason. For it is God's servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong." (Romans 13:1, 4)

"When operating properly under divine authority, the state upholds law and order and serves as an instrument of justice. But human institutions may be hijacked for evil purposes and such is the case in Revelation 13. Satan sometimes works through secular power systems and the wicked individuals who rule those systems. When the state turns tyrannical and demands unconditional allegiance, Christians have no choice but to 'obey God rather than man.'" (Acts 5:29) (Duvall, 192)

"We are to submit right up to the point where obedience to the state would entail disobedience to God. But if the state commands what God forbids, or forbids what God commands, then our plain duty is to resist, not to submit, to disobey the state in order to obey God." (John Stott)

"Blasphemous names"

Claiming names of divinity with direct references to God. The imperial cult

Within limits

- **"was given"** occurs 5x in 13:5-7, 14-15
- 42 months
- "one hour" - Revelation 17:12

How do we respond?

"This calls for endurance and faithfulness from the saints."

- Remember you live under the authority of King Jesus. Remember which kingdom you're in. Living under the kingdoms of this world vs living under the authority of King Jesus.
- Not just "read the Bible" but read life through the Bible!
Only by **"keeping the commands of God... and... holding firmly to the testimony about Jesus."**
- Live a *spiritual* life. Believe in the miraculous...
the wonderful, death-defying power of Jesus! Our firm belief in the death, resurrection and reign of Christ coupled with our testimony means not just that we say believe the right things, but that we live the right ways. **It's a call to discipleship**, to following Jesus daily and vibrantly.
- **Don't shrink from opportunities to proclaim to others the message of forgiveness through repentance and faith in Jesus.**

"...for they did not love their lives to the point of death." (12.11)

- **Trust the Lord for all ... today... and in days to come.**

God promises to nourish and sustain

God's promises here are His sovereign care during a time of great wrath. Like Elijah in 1 Kings 17 being sent to the Cherith Brook, fed by birds. While we will encounter the persecution and wrath of Satan and his servants, God

people supernaturally.

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Prepare for war...

OUR RESPONSE

- Remember which kingdom you're in.
- Not just "read the Bible" but read life *through* the Bible!
- Live a spiritual life.
- Don't shrink from opportunities to proclaim to others the message of forgiveness through repentance and faith in Jesus.
- Trust the Lord for all ... today... and in days to come.
- Prepare for war...

"It is Yahweh who wins the wars on behalf of His people, and the message is clear: do not make war against the beast; that is the work of God. Live faithfully and persevere in witness, but leave the battle to the Lord." (Osborne, 506)

We do not wage war with weapons as the world does...

"For although we live in the flesh, **we do not wage war according to the flesh, since the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh**, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments and every proud thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

We conquer by being conquered. We fight as Jesus did. **With truth, with righteousness, with mercy on those seeking mercy, with healing, and by laying down our lives.** This is not a popular teaching! "As un-American as it gets." (Duvall, 193)

Our Strategy

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As Christ's ministers, we commend ourselves in every way to you: by our endurance, by afflictions, by hardships, by difficulties, by beatings, by imprisonments, by riots, by labors, by sleepless nights, by times of hunger, by purity, by knowledge, by patience, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God; through weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, through glory and dishonor, through slander and good report; regarded as deceivers, yet true; as unknown, yet recognized; as dying, yet see — we live; as being disciplined, yet not killed; as grieving, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet enriching many; as having nothing, yet possessing everything. (2 Corinthians 6:4-10)

"We are afflicted in every way but not crushed; we are perplexed but not in

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