

# RED Dragon Dawn 4

## *The False Prophet Vs. The Holy Spirit*

(preached 3/27/22)

Please turn to *Revelation 13*.

### LAST WEEK:

- Lucifer's goal is to dethrone God in Heaven and rule from there, and to have his Beast rule over the earth.
- The Beast is the son of the Dragon, just as Jesus is God's Son.
- The spirit of the Beast will ascend up from the BP and inhabit a human body, and I believe said spirit will be Apollyon mentioned in Revelation 9.
- Just as Jesus' spirit descended from God's Heaven and took on human form.
- The main weapon of the Beast is what he says: blaspheming God, the Name of Jesus, and those who live in God's Heaven.
- When the Beast finally arrives, during the 7 year Tribulation, he will successfully convert millions if not billions to himself.
- They will worship him and the Dragon, just as we worship Jesus and Father God.
- Our calling is to hold fast to our own testimony here in the last days!

TODAY we'll compare the False Prophet to the Holy Spirit.

### **Revelation 13:11-18 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.

<sup>12</sup> It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.

<sup>13</sup> It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people,

<sup>14</sup> and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

<sup>15</sup> And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.

<sup>16</sup> Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead,

<sup>17</sup> so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

<sup>18</sup> This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

**Verse 11:** we're introduced to a second beast, separate from the first, and is called The False Prophet. As the first beast rose out of the sea, which represented the nations/gentiles, it's assumed that this second one comes from the nation of Israel because it's on land.

TWO HORNS LIKE A LAMB has mystified bible scholars for years because lambs don't have horns. Yet here is what we know: as the first Beast operates out in the open with both his words and actions, the FP is a more "behind the scenes" type guy. His brand of deception will be more subtle and underhanded.

FALSE PROPHET. Case in point, he appears Messiah like...Christ like which is why he looks like a lamb which lives up to his name of FALSE Prophet. Just as Jesus described FP's as wolves pretending to be sheep, the FP of chapter 13 speaks with the voice of the Dragon meaning he's allied with the devil and not God, regardless of what he says.

**Verse 12:** the FP has all the same authority of the Dragon, but only exercises it when he's in the physical presence of the Antichrist. Remember the rule of 2 or 3 witnesses to establish a matter. Instead of just bearing witness to himself, the Antichrist has the FP "confirming" his words and actions. Not just with verbal affirmation, but with false miracles that will inspire people to believe that the Antichrist is their lord and savior instead of Jesus.

ENTERS TEMPLE. Paul told the Thessalonians that the Antichrist will enter the Jewish temple, defile it, then proclaim himself to be the god of this world (2 *Thessalonians* 2:4). The FP will verbally "affirm" his godhood, then perform miraculous signs to bear witness to the same...and many will be convinced.

SUPERNATURAL POWERFUL WITNESS! I need to talk with you all about something. First, it should already be clear to you that I love love love when the Holy Spirit moves in the supernatural! Bring on healing, prophesy, and the miraculous! I love it when God appears to people and speaks with them in dreams and waking visions! When people testify that they've entertained an angel who spoke God's word, I clap and cheer!

APPEARS AS ANGEL OF LIGHT. Yet the Dragon also operates in the supernatural. He can appear as an angel of light (2 *Corinthians* 11:14) to deliver a false gospel, false prophecy, or work a false miracle.

- Mohammed claims that the angel Gabriel appeared to him to give him the Quran.
- Joseph Smith claims God the Father and Jesus appeared to him in the forest to lead him to a new way.
- Claude Rael says an evolved alien appeared to him and said they were the gods of mankind and would lead us into a glorious future. All claimed these same beings or others work miracles to confirm their teaching as "true."

I BELIEVE A BEING APPEARED. This might shock you, but I believe beings did appear to all these men...just not God or any of God's angels. I believe they saw bonafide supernatural miracles...but they were false, deceiving ones. I believe it was the Devil or one of his angels who showed up and preached the falsehoods they believe which went on to create major religions that have deceived billions.

CONFUSED? ASK ME. Please listen and understand what I'm telling you and, if you're confused, please approach me later and ask questions.

**A witness confirms... either something true or false.**

**A SUPERNATURAL WITNESS CONFIRMS A SUPERNATURAL CLAIM, EVEN IF THE CLAIM IS FALSE.**

BODY, MIND, HEART & SPIRIT. We have a body, mind, heart, and a spirit. We understand the first 3 here in the western world, *but our spirit is in a different realm.*

**The deepest form of being in truth AND being deceived takes place in the spirit.**

SPIRIT CRAVES SPIRIT. While our bodies, minds, and hearts crave the things of this world our spirit does not. It's spirit and dwells in that realm...*so it reaches out for things and the beings in that realm.*

**It craves a higher level or knowledge, wisdom, and supernatural experiences.**

REGENERATED. The spirit of a Christian believer has been REGENERATED (say it all together), which is to say the old one died and was born-again into the likeness of Jesus. The regenerated spirit is now one with the Holy Spirit Who communicates with it and teaches it about God (*1 Corinthians 2:10-16*). With a steady diet of the Holy Spirit, reading the Bible, prayer, and listening to sermons our spirits are "fed" manna from God.

UNBELIEVER. The spirit of an unbeliever is not regenerated and therefore not connected to with the Holy Spirit. *Therefore it's open to connecting with another spirit.*

SEEM SO CERTAIN. People who connect with other spirits—whether in a major religion or a small cult—always seem so CERTAIN they're in the truth, don't they? Why is this?

WESTERNERS. Westerners dwell primarily in body, heart, and mind and our experiences there are familiar. Our mind can be convinced of a philosophy, our heart can be attached to how it feels about something, and our body has simple physical desires.

**Spirit connection isn't just rare for westerners, it's on a higher level.**

*The spiritual level goes above and beyond our normal experiences with body, heart, and mind: it's transcendent and blows us away.*

**WHEN WE HAVE A SUPERNATURAL EXPERIENCE, WE'RE FAR MORE "CONVINCED" THAN WHEN WE HAVE AN INTELLECTUAL OR EMOTIONAL ONE.**

Verses 13-14: I've already compared the FP to the Holy Spirit so here is what the FP will successfully accomplish in his time: he'll preach the Dragon's gospel and confirm the same with miraculous signs. Any who believe will have their spirits connected to the spirit of the Dragon and therefore will worship both the Beast and the Dragon.

FIRE FROM HEAVEN. The one and only miracle mentioned in Scripture that the FP specifically does is calling down fire from Heaven (although he will do others as well). Let's keep something in mind: the Bible and the religious books of other religions bear witness as well. *Ex: what comes to mind when you hear "calling fire down from heaven"?*

ELIJAH. If you answered "Elijah" you are correct! Elijah called down fire from heaven on more than one occasion, the most well known being to burn up the wet altar and defy the prophets of Baal. The other times he did so when surrounded by Jezebel's soldiers on Mt. Carmel who were trying to arrest him (2 Kings 1:9-14).

MALACHI'S PROPHECY/FORERUNNERS. The last prophecy spoken in the OT: that Elijah would physically return to earth and be the forerunner for Second Coming Jesus (Malachi 4:5) just as John the Baptist was the forerunner for First Coming Jesus (Matthew 3:1-3).

FP "CONFIRMING" MIRACLE. When the FP appears he's going to point to the Beast as being the messiah and god of our world. Perhaps his greatest confirming miracle will be the same one Elijah did? Perhaps the FP will even claim to be Elijah and his own claim will be "confirmed" by the most famous miracle of said prophet?

JESUS & MIRACLES. When Jesus was here 2000 years ago He both preached the truth with words and performed miraculous signs via the Holy Spirit. When people rejected His preaching, Jesus would turn their attention to His miracles and remind the people that said miracles should confirm to them that He was indeed their Messiah (John 14:11). It was the Holy Spirit performing these miracles through Jesus, therefore highlighting and glorifying Him.

HS MIRACLES IN JESUS' PRESENCE. The Holy Spirit lived within Christ, so therefore He only did these miracles "in the presence of" Jesus just as the FP will only do his in the presence of the Antichrist.

ORIGINS. Just as Jesus and the Holy Spirit both come from Father God and speak like Father, the Antichrist and FP both come from the Dragon and speak like him.

NOT YOU! Don't misunderstand and be afraid! If you know Christ as your Savior, your spirit has been regenerated and is one with the Holy Spirit. ***You don't need to be afraid of the supernatural!*** Don't start worrying about whether you'll be deceived or possibly take the Mark of the Beast. You are one with the Holy Spirit! One with Jesus! One with Father!

WE CAN BE DUPED, BUT.... Yes, we can all be duped...but the level of deception people will experience during the Tribulation will be unsaved people who become one with the Dragon—their spirits merging with his—causing them to fall into what Paul called "the reprobate mind" of *Romans 1*. People who have completely rejected Father and Jesus, and have clung to the Dragon and the Beast.

**That's not you...if you know Christ as Savior!**

"TEAR DOWN THAT WALL!" I assume most of you were here when I preached an entire sermon series recently about pursuing the supernatural. I even quoted Ronald Reagan, calling upon Christians to "tear down that wall" of fear and suspicion when it came to the supernatural. To go after dreams, visions, miracles, healings, prophecy, and more!

FEAR SERMON. I preached an entire sermon within the last year on fear and if you weren't here for it, let me give a quick overview: fear doesn't bring greater wisdom or discernment. It doesn't protect us and its prophetic track record is terrible. All it does is isolate it, make us suspicious, and casts the dark shadow of doubt over just about everything. It will make us turn on each other and drains away love, faith, and hope.

NO FEAR! So don't shrink back in fear over what I've said today and stop putting yourself in the category of "even the very elect will be deceived, if it were possible." (*Matthew 24:24*) Keep clinging to God, reading your Bible, praying, and coming to a Bible based church like this one and you'll be fine.

**Verse 15** contains a mystery, a massive question mark that should have been included in this page, LOL! Daniel and Jesus both spoke of an "image" the Antichrist would create called "the Abomination of Desolation" and went on to say said image would be placed withing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Jewish Temple, defiling it (*Daniel 11:31, 12:11, Matthew 24:15*).

IDOLS. Back when Revelation 13 was written, the Jews were used to pagan religions forming idols in the image of the gods they worshipped. Not only did they remember God's Second Commandment—don't create idols and don't worship idols—but they remembered what the Lord said several times in the OT. God would point out that idols weren't alive—that they couldn't hear, speak, or move (*Deuteronomy 4:28*).

JOHN'S SHOCKER. So it must have been quite the shocker to John, as he saw this unfolding in the spirit, to see the FP create an idol that WOULD be alive and be able to speak, etc. Back then they would have picture an idol made of wood or metal that...was somehow animated, alive, and could speak.

ROBOT? What will it be? The short answer is IDK. Yet I look at some of our modern tech and can't help but to wonder if it might be one of the following: 1) a robot (they're quite lifelike these days), 2) a hologram of some sort, possibly virtual or augmented reality.

THE IMAGE CAUSES.... Whatever it is, look at the context of the verse: ***the IMAGE is the one who causes anyone who doesn't worship it to be killed.*** Perhaps it has a camera or other detection device that discerns who is bowing down to it and who isn't? Regardless, it can somehow discern whether someone is performing the right genuflection and any who refuse are marked by it, and then likely arrested and done away with later.

**Verses 16-18** are the famous Mark of the Beast verses.

**Verse 16:** once again, it's the IMAGE of the Beast that causes people to take the mark.

**Verse 17:** no commerce whatsoever can be done without the mark. Allow me to speak on this for a moment, because what we see here is the Beast system controlling one of the most powerful aspects of the physical world: ***the economy.***

CURRENCY. Let's talk currency and its relationship to government and keep in mind I'm giving the short, "paint with a broad stroke" version. Once upon a time currency came in the form of precious metals like gold and silver, which people traded for goods and services.

COIN MONEY. Then government intervened (sigh). Kings, emperors, & governors realized they'd have more power and the ability to tax citizens if they controlled the money. So they started taking all the precious metal and coining them with the image of whatever ruler was currently in power and attached a certain value to said coins.

CASH. Eventually someone came up with the idea of IOU's—an official government sanctioned piece of paper that served as a promissory note of the value of the precious metals. In order for worthless paper to have value, government needed to take most of the PM's and store it to "back" the promissory notes and guarantee value. We call these pieces of paper "cash." Holding the PM's allowed government to have more power over the economy and people.

CHECKS. Banks saw this and, as they began storing people's cash, decided to mimic government. They issued their own worthless pieces of paper "backed" by the cash in their vaults and allow people to use them to buy and sell. We call these piece of paper "checks." ***At that point we had IOU's backed by IOU's backed by gold.***

CREATE MONEY (PRINT IT) NOT BACKED BY GOLD. Government then realized that economy wanted to grow beyond the amount of gold it had stored away...so they created money out of thin air. That's right...they printed cash above and beyond what was backed by gold.

BANK LOANS—CREDIT. The banks said "what a great idea!" and did the same, creating "credit" to loan to people that was fantasy money...not backed up by anything. That made it much easier for the common man and woman to get a credit card and a loan—because the money we borrow was created from nothing. Do you understand what I just said?

NOT YET AT MOB STATUS. All this was still not enough control for the spirit of Antichrist which needs to get to *Revelation 13:17* status—that you can ONLY buy and sell if you take the mysterious mark. There are still people who don't use credit or debit cards to buy and sell. They use checks or cash for everything or most things and don't take out electronic loans. All forms of electronic money can be tracked by the powers that be, but tracking isn't enough...they need complete control.

SOME CONTROL—IRS FREEZE. We have a form of that now: don't pay your federal taxes and the IRS can freeze your bank accounts despite the fact that banks are private sector vs. government. A person can still get around that, however, by dealing with cash.

CRYPTOS! A few years ago something none of us regular folk saw coming happened: cryptocurrency. If you need an explanation of what cryptocurrency is I'm afraid I can't give you one because I don't fully understand it. Here is what I do know: ***for the first time in human history we have a global currency that's not beholden to any country or government.*** It's "mined" off the internet and given a value by the people who created it vs. a country and I repeat: this has never happened in all of human history.

DIGITAL GOV'T CURRENCY. Taking a cue from crypto's, government now wants to create its own digital currency and eliminate all other forms. The Biden administration is calling for the same.

DIFFERENCE? What's the difference between this and standard electronic credit? Standard currency can be exchanged between two private people, or a company to a person, etc. and government has nothing to do with it. If I buy something on Amazon, Uncle Sam's not involved. When my workplace gives my paycheck, they're not involved beyond taking out taxes.

DIGITAL = GOV'T INVOLVED. The new digital currency gets government involved—it can only be issued and authorized by them. Not only will they be able to track it's coming and going, ***but they could start and stop the flow it without having to go through a bank or company.***

IRS & TEXAS CONTACTED ME. Example: several years ago I got letters from both the IRS and the State of Texas that they knew I had hired a guy named Johnny Doe (not his real name). The IRS letter said Johnny owed a 5 figure sum of back taxes and the Texas letter said he owed a 5 figure sum for child support. Both letters didn't ASK me to garnish his wages and send it to them, they demanded it and threatened fines against me if I didn't comply.

TEXAS WANTED HIS ADDRESS. A fellow repping Texas called me on the phone and he was angry—not with me. He demanded I give him the current mailing and living address of said employee or else.

NEEDED MY COMPLIANCE. Keeping all this in mind, both a state and federal government still needed to rely upon the compliance of the private sector to get their money. Now imagine if they didn't have to...that's what digital currency will accomplish. Suppose it had been in place at the time my former employee worked for me and everyone was required to carry a state-authorized debit card with the smart chip—no more cash or checks. All the IRS and Texas would had to have done is freeze this man's account and the middle-man is eliminated. He wouldn't be able to buy or sell and would be at their mercy.

MOB SYSTEM. The Mark of the Beast will be a system much like what I just described and, in this modern age, I wouldn't be surprised if the Antichrist developed his own cryptocurrency that was completely under his control.

**Verse 17** actually expands things a little beyond the mark and includes a person can also have the name of the Beast or the number of his name on their right hands or foreheads. The number, according to verse 18, is 666.

***Did you know that the name of God the Father and Jesus is written on your foreheads and the Bible calls it a mark?***

IT'S A BRAND. Revelation 7 states the 144,000 witnesses have the mark—the name—of God on their foreheads and chapter 9 expands that to include all believers who are alive at that time. It can be seen on the Spirit and, if I may be crude, it's like a brand of ownership.

SPIRIT BEINGS SEE IT. Every being in the spirit: God, angels, and demons can see the glowing mark on my forehead and yours that clearly marks us as being one of Jesus' sheep/herd. The brand on sheep shows others who it belongs to and I'm both happy and proud to have Christ's brand on me! I want everyone—especially the devil—to know I belong to my Lord and King Jesus so that he'll think twice about messing with me! So that he'll realize



duping me will be no easy feat! Remember the Scripture says that the Name of Jesus is ABOVE every name that is named (*Ephesians 1:21*) and HIS name is written on my forehead and yours!

MOB ALSO SEEN IN SPIRIT. The mark of the Beast is the perverted version of being saved and sealed by the Holy Spirit. Anyone foolish enough to get the 666 will be seen in both spirit and physical as having been branded by the Dragon and therefore belonging to him.

IT'S A NAME. A mark/seal is a name. Those of us who have embraced Jesus bear His name and will inherit everything Jesus does: eternal life, the kingdom, etc. Those who embrace the Beast will bear his name and will inherit everything the Beast does:

#### **Revelation 14:9-11 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,

<sup>10</sup> he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

<sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

NO MIDDLE GROUND. During the Tribulation, all bets are off and there's no middle ground—everyone is either with Christ or the Beast. There will be no time left to think about things as the truth of both sides will be blatant.

Let me read verse 12 of Revelation 14 and then we'll close:

#### **Revelation 14:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

CHALLENGED. What we believe is being challenged now more than ever! Despite efforts by the high places here on earth to convince us otherwise, we must hold on to what we know to be true and not be conformed to this world.

#### **Hebrews 10:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.