

## The Antichrist and the False Prophet Revelation 13:1-18 (Part 21)

**Big idea of chapter 13:** Satan uses 2 men to deceive and rule the world. There is a coming world ruler (Antichrist) that receives his power from Satan.

**2 main characters:** Beast out of the sea (Antichrist) and the beast out of the land (False Prophet).

**Revelation 13:1** *And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.*

**A beast out of the sea:** This is from God's perspective. This false messiah's character is like a beast. He will be outwardly deceiving counterfeiting the true Messiah.

- (1) "Many waters" in 17:15 means Gentile nations of peoples.
- (2) The mysterious depths of the unknown sea. The Antichrist comes from a mysterious background but ultimately from Satanic origin.
- (3) Sea and land represent the world and Satan will rule the world through the 2 beasts.

**10 horns, 7 heads, 10 diadems:** Represents the Gentile world powers and Gentile nations that come together under his leadership.

**Ten diadems:** The difference between the beast and the dragon is the diadems are on the horns instead of the 7 heads. The ten horns having crowns represent the power given to the 10 Gentile nation powers that will be ruling during the tribulation.

**Revelation 13:2** *And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.*

**Like a Leopard, bear, lion:** The beast will incorporate and be the essence of all major Gentile rulers.

**The dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority:** The Antichrist is empowered by the dragon, giving him the power he had over the the Gentile nations.

**Revelation 13:3** *One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast.*

**Mortal wound:** One of the heads of the beast is killed or seemingly killed.

- If the heads represent kings or kingdoms then the injury is to a nation or king other than the beast.
- It appears that it is the beast or Antichrist himself that is mortally wounded.

**Revelation 13:12, 14** *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. ... 14 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.*

**But its mortal wound was healed:** The Antichrist is seemingly killed and his fatal wound is healed also seemingly miraculously.

**2 Thessalonians 2:9-11** *The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

**The whole earth marveled as they followed the beast:** The world has been deceived by the Antichrist as a peacemaker gaining control. It is taken to a higher level with the Antichrist appearing to die and then coming back to life.

**Revelation 13:4** *And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"*

**They worshiped the dragon... and the beast:** The world is grateful and indebted to the new world leader that has saved them from world wide famine, disease, and destruction. They worship the beast and ultimately the power behind him, the dragon.

**Revelation 13:5-6** *And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. 6 It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.*

**The beast was given a mouth:** The Antichrist will no longer hide and pretend, he will tell the world who he thinks he is, god.

**Allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months:** The Antichrist seems to be in control, but we are reminded that his power is "allowed" by God.

**Revelation 13:7-8** *Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, 8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.*

**Allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them:** God demonstrates His sovereignty by allowing. The Antichrist goes from peaceful savior to authoritative tyrant and murderer of any who opposes him.

- After the abomination of desolation by the Antichrist in the temple he persecutes the Jews and any who claim Jesus as God.

**Daniel 9:27** *And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."*

**Daniel 7:21-22** *As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.*

**Authority was given:** Once again God demonstrates His sovereignty over the Antichrist. The whole world will be under his authority.

**All who dwell on earth will worship it:** Earth dweller is used for those who are unbelievers and their focus is the material world. They will worship the Antichrist.

**Revelation 13:9-10** *If anyone has an ear, let him hear: 10 If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.*

**If anyone has an ear, let him hear:** This phrase was used 7 times in chapters 2 and 3 but was followed by "what the Spirit says to the churches". Here it is written to Jews and believers but not the churches (they have been raptured).

**Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints:** There will be persecution and death but God will prevail ultimately.

**Revelation 13:11** *Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.*

**Another beast rising out of the earth:** This second beast come from the earth who will be known as the False Prophet and the spiritual leader for the Antichrist.

- (1) Some see the earth as representing the land of Canaan contrasting the sea as Gentile nations. They see the Second beast (false Prophet) as Jewish.
- (2) If the sea represents mysterious and unknown origins, the earth represents known origins from mankind.
- (3) Sea and land represent the world and Satan will rule the world through the 2 beasts

**Two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon:** The False Prophet is a dragon in lambs clothing. He appears to be harmless and religious, but is inspired and driven by Satan.

**Revelation 13:12** *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.*

**Exercises all the authority:** The False Prophet is the right hand man of the Antichrist. He will direct people to the Antichrist as the loving, peaceful ruler and savior of the world.

**Revelation 13:13-14** *It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, 14 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.*

**Performs great signs:** The earth-dwellers will be given signs and wonders to get them to believe in the false christ, Antichrist.

**Fire will come down from heaven:** This is showing he will counterfeit miracles that appear to be from God.

**Make an image for the beast:** In direct rebellion to God, the Antichrist will have an image, idol, likeness, statue... something that represent himself as god of the world.

**2 Thessalonians 2:3-4** *Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.*

**Revelation 13:15** *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.*

**Give breath to the image of the beast:** The image is given the appearance of life to further deceive the people of earth into worshipping the beast and his image.

**1 Corinthians 12:2** *You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led.*

**Psalms 115:5** *They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.*

**Jeremiah 10:5** *Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk.*

**Habakkuk 2:18-19** *“What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols! 19 Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it.*

**Cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain:** The dedication of the followers of the beast will be to the detriment of those who choose not to follow and worship him.

**Revelation 13:16-17** *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, 17 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.*

**Marked on the right hand or the forehead:** The Antichrist will mark his followers to claim them and to separate them from those who do not follow him.

**Revelation 13:18** *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.*

**This calls for wisdom...let the one who has understanding:** For those alive during the tribulation use wisdom, do not be deceived by your eyes and ears.

**Calculate the number of the beast:** Use your mind and reason to calculate and understand that the Antichrist is a man not God or the Messiah.

**For it is the number of a man:** 6 is the number of man. Man was created on the 6th day. 6 is short of being 7 the number of perfection and completion.

**His number is 666:** Repeating the number three times emphasizes that this is man's number, as opposed to 777 or just as the thrice-repeated statement "holy, holy, holy" stresses God's absolute holiness.

- 1. Understand the value but limitation to government.**
- 2. God does allow suffering and pain even to His children.**
- 3. Do not be deceived by false teachers.**