

A SERIES THROUGH THE REVELATION

Revelation 13 Pt. 2—An Unholy Trinity Resulting In Global Deception | 9.8.22

I. INTRODUCTION (Revelation 13:11-18)

II. THE UNHOLY TRINITY (Revelation 13:11-12)

A. Revelation 13:11-12 *“Then I saw another beast coming up from the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first in his presence and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound is healed.”*

1. It's clear that the scene has once again shifted for John when he says, *“Then I saw another beast...”* The scene is of the same genre, but it's a change, something in addition to what he had already seen previously.
2. John rightly states that's it's *“...another beast...”* likening the second to the first, while still creating separation between them. He's not isolated, he's also a beast, just different than the first beast that John observed in **Revelation 13:1-10**.
3. This second beast is also demonic because of its earthly origin:
 - a. **James 3:13-18** *“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy...”*
4. But instead of coming up from the sea like the first beast (**Rev. 13:1**), this second beast is coming up from the earth. There are two primary things related to the second beast's origin;
 - a. Firstly, it's a statement about the global dominance satan will have at the end of this present evil age (**Gal. 1:4**) through this unholy trinity. If you remember back in **Revelation 10**, John saw a mighty angel standing with one foot on the sea, and one foot on the land representing God's activity covering all things, both land and sea. This is the same idea. The first beast from the sea, the second beast from the earth.
 - b. Secondly, it's a statement about the inferiority of the second beast. In ancient Israel there were no land animals that were greater, or more feared than those that were in the waters of the deep. John also sees that this second beast only has 2 horns (*power and authority*) unlike the first beast which has 10 horns (**Rev. 13:1**).
5. The deceptive nature of this second beast will become evident further on in **Revelation 13**, but here he's mimicking the Lamb of **Revelation 5**. He has two horns like a lamb, but he speaks just like the dragon.
 - a. This will be the challenge in that day, to be able to discern between what we see, and what we hear (**Gen. 27:22**). The great deception will come to those who haven't developed a love for the truth:
 1. **2nd Thessalonians 2:9-10** *“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth.”*
6. Well, this second beast will have the confidence of the first beast, so much so that the first beast will entrust him with his power, and his authority, not because he loves to share, and want's equality, it's because he wants to consolidate power for himself (*un-holy trinity*).

- a. This is the nature of their un-holy trinity; The dragon is giving his power, his throne, and his authority to the first beast (**Rev. 13:2**). And the first beast is allowing the second beast, “...*(to) exercise all the authority of the first in his presence and causes the earth...to worship the first beast...*”
 - b. The dragon is acting like the Father, the first beast is acting like the Son, and the second beast is acting like the Holy Spirit.
 - c. The Father empowered the Son, the Son sent the Spirit, the Spirit is gathering worshippers for the Son, and the Son will present sons and daughters to the Father.
7. It's also here that we learn this is more than a “healing” that's happened to the antichrist, it's a demonic resuscitation because the second beast is, “...*causing the earth and those that dwell in it, to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.*”
- a. This idea of, “...*the earth and those that dwell in it...*” is typical Jewish hyperbole. We aren't to think that this includes every solitary person, but it is the majority (**Rev. 13:8**).

III. THE GREAT DECEPTION (Revelation 13:13-17)

- A. Revelation 13:13-14** “*He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on earth in the sight of men. 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.*”
1. The future ahead is a direct, global confrontation of wildly epic proportions. The spiritual climate that the nations are walking into will surprise even those disposed to spiritual things (**Joel 2; Acts 2**).
 2. Previously, in **Revelation 11** it was the two prophets of God that were able to call down fire from heaven at will, but now it's also the second beast who is empowered to perform similar signs, even calling down fire.
 3. These lying signs and wonders will work to obscure the truth of God's gospel, they will confuse the people, and win the nations for their demonic agenda. But they are being used for the sole purpose of helping to publicly validate the deceptive teaching of the two beasts.
 - a. These aren't pyrotechnics, or trickery, or some sleight of hand magician work, these are bona fide, genuine miracles that will far surpass the sorcerers of the Old Testament, like Moses' day (**Ex. 7-12**). But much of the New Testament warns us about these counterfeit miracles (**Rev. 16:14; 19:20; Mark 13:22; Matt. 7:21-23; 2nd Thess. 2:9**).
 4. But at the core of these deceptive signs and wonders is the goal to validate what's being said, and done through the first beast, the antichrist. The second beast is working to galvanize the nations around the antichrist and his purposes and it's effective:
 - a. **Revelation 13:14** “*And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast...*”
 5. But once again the second beast isn't doing the lying signs and wonders in a vacuum, he's granted the ability to do it, he's given it, by God. God's allowing the human heart to finally have what it desires, a life without God, led by godless, fully demonized, earthly leaders who will empower the human race to have what they want: independence from God!
 6. This is also the first time in human history that two resurrections will be being preached, and both attested to with signs and wonders.
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- a. Are you developing today what's needed to be able to stand in that future hour? An hour of global pressure, with deceptive signs and wonders working to confirm this man has been raised from the dead, publicly. Will you be able to separate between the two resurrections, with one being truthful and one being deceptive?

B. Revelation 13:14b-15 *“...telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. 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.*”

1. Part of the second beast's agenda will be to give life to an image/statue of the antichrist. He's going to command the nations to create this image which he will eventually cause to be living and active in some sort of way.
 - a. For many of us in the Western world this sounds so silly to think about the majority of the earth worshipping a statue, or some sort of idol. But all throughout the region in John's day there were entire temples dedicated to the worship of earthly emperors.
 - b. And currently, through most of the East, the majority of dead religions worship around statues. It's estimated that in Hinduism alone, there are around 330 million gods and goddesses (<https://apnews.com/article/24bfb9b360e30268ce87764b6f65bb72>).
 - c. But those 330 gods and goddesses are being served by an estimated global worship movement of 1 billion Hindus.
2. So it shouldn't be weird to think that this final, fully demonized, global leader who will eventually consolidate all of the worlds power into himself, have his own statue, and image, temples and worshippers around the world? It makes total sense.
3. And just like Christian's worship Jesus for the sole reason that Christ rose from the dead (**1st Cor. 15:12-19**), so also will the nations worship the antichrist because he's also come back from death.
4. This issue isn't between one religion and another, but between Jesus and satan. Who will humanity worship? In the Revelation worship of the beast is always associated with receiving his mark and receiving his mark without the act of worship will be impossible (**Rev. 14:9, 11; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4**).

C. Revelation 13:16-17 *“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, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the number of his name.”*

1. Once again John reminds us that this global, demonic worship movement will affect every, solitary, person. The idea John is getting across is that this is a sweeping grab for everyone.
 2. The socially unimportant, and the socially significant. The influencer, and the influenced alike. Pressure is coming to the whole of society to take on this mark of allegiance or worship to the first beast.
 3. Throughout the whole of the Bible a mark has been present. From the Shema in **Deut. 6:8**, to the mark of Ezekiel in **Ezekiel 9:4**, the seal of **Ephesians 1:13**, or the mark in **Revelation 3, 7, 22:4**, this isn't something new. It's simply a parody of God's true mark upon the Church.
 - a. This whole chapter is given to a parody of the Christian era; you've got a counterfeit, unholy demonic trinity, a death and resurrection, and a global people who have joined the movement via a mark, just like the Church, who's been sealed/marked by God.
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4. The idea is that just as the servants of God were sealed in **Revelation 7** from the wrath of God, so also will the antichrist attempt to seal his own followers from the wrath of the Lamb against them. This will be a mark of protection and provision, making the first beast earth's functional god, once again using the belly to drive the nations; hunger.
5. But his plan will be effective, which is why God in His grace talks to us about it. It's the great pressure point regarding allegiance. It's the beast's way of playing God, he wants to be the provider, the protector, and overseer of humanity.
 - a. *"Under the third seal, the world as a whole had difficulty obtaining the necessities of life (Rev. 6:5-6), but here deprivation of the necessities of life is a tool of the false prophet to punish the faithful for their loyalty to the lamb. Until the appointed time of their execution (Rev. 13:15), they must undergo this nagging harassment at the hands of the dragon sponsored regime. This is a constant pressure to become a worshipper of the beast, because receiving the mark and worshipping the beast are inseparable commitments."* –Robert Thomas, Revelation Vol. 2, Pg. 182
6. What God's family must understand is that the devil is raising up a harlot in the same way God is raising up a pure and spotless bride. The devil is working to take away from Jesus what belongs to Him, by using God's method to raise up forerunners who will worship him.
7. The Church has to be awake, alert, on guard, and rightly declaring God's word to raise up a whole company of people that are aware of the devil's tactics so that we can rescue many from deception.
8. David Pawson once said, *"I think I would rather be thrown into the Lion's den than to be thrown out of the soup line, or the job search line."* In some ways I agree with him. Beloved, this is why we have to prepare our hearts today, we have to respond to Jesus today, we have to agree with God's word today.

D. Revelation 13:18 *"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. For the simple fact that I believe that the antichrist is a future leader, a yet coming fully demonized global leader, any attempt past or present to identify a person is futile. The reality is, at some point, in the future, there will be a fully demonized leader on the scene and this riddle will be cracked, and it will be made clear, but until then, we wait, not speculate.