

Revelation

Revelation Thirteen: Trinity of Evil

Introduction

The antichrist system is basically a religious system. It creates a religious structure of economics and politics. However, religion is the cohesive force of his plan. It is an attempt to provide substitutes for everything that God has provided for us.

One aspect of this system is that it provides a **false trinity**. Satan replace God; the antichrist is replacing Christ, and the false prophet replaces the Holy Spirit. It is an “instead of Jesus” system.

Having been permanently cast out of heaven (12:9), Satan knows that his time is short (12:12). He is desperate to defeat Christ, so he empowers two powerful partners in the antichrist and the false prophet.

The Beast Out of the Sea

13:1-10

A. His Ancestry! 13:1

1. The dragon stood on the seashore which is a position of domain and surveillance which he claims as his own.
2. Just as God uses men to accomplish His objective, so Satan uses men.
3. The sea is used in Scripture as a place of unrest and chaos of Gentile nations and peoples surrounding the Mediterranean.
4. The beast out of the sea is distinct from the dragon of chapter twelve but is closely identified with him. He is not the dragon but is like him (11:3). This likeness is just one of the things that identifies this beast with the one known as antichrist.
5. He is a real person and a representative person.
6. This is Satan’s imitation of the **incarnation of Jesus**.

B. His Description! 13:2

1. Let’s begin by understand the term **antichrist**!
2. This takes us back to Daniel 7:4-6 where the Lion, Bear and Leopard have already been seen by Daniel.
3. Daniel presents to us a chronology of world history as it relates to human governments, especially human governments that claim divine authority.

4. John will show us the culmination of those governments with all their ferocity, viciousness, and evil in the antichrist's kingdom.
5. But, like all Satan's other attempts to thwart God's purposes, it will ultimately fail.
6. We should point out that the rulers and the dragon are really servants of God.

C. His Wound and Resurrection! 13:3

1. In John's vision one of the seven heads sustained a mortal wound. It had happened some time ago but was still in evidence.
2. Again, this is an attempt on the part of the dragon to mimic the description of Christ as the "**Lamb standing as it had been slain**" (5:6).
3. It is an imitation of the resurrection of Christ. Resurrection stands as evidence of Christ's deity and Satan seeks to nullify that sign with the resurrection of the antichrist.
4. This healing gave the beast even more power in the eyes of the world. "**The whole earth marveled after the beast.**"
5. This provoked the worship that we see next.

D. His Worship! 13:4

1. The world's fascination with the antichrist will quickly become worship. He will encourage and demand that worship by "**exalting himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God**" (2 Thessalonians 2:4).
2. He is aided in this by the false prophet who "makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the beast, whose fatal wound was healed" (13:12).
3. It will be "deceived unbelievers" who worship antichrist.
4. Worship is the one thing Satan has always wanted (Matthew 4:8-10).

E. His Blasphemies! 13:5,6

1. What is blasphemy?
2. This is another pattern in the imitation of Trinitarian relationships. His speech mimics the manner in which prophecies are given. It is imitation of the oracles of God.
 - These saying usurped God's glory.
 - He blasphemed the person of God.
 - He blasphemed the tabernacle of God.

- He blasphemed those who dwell in heaven.
3. This will not last long, because God grants him authority for only 42 months.
- F. **His War on Saints!** 13:7
1. Because they will refuse to worship the antichrist, he will make war with saints and overcome them.
 2. The results will be worldwide martyrdom of God's people.
 3. The world's population will be divided: those who are saved with their names in God's Book of life, and the worshippers of the beast who designated as "***the ones who dwell on the earth, whose name is not written in the Book of Life.***"
 4. This astounding vision of the beast from the sea concludes with a *call for spiritual understanding.*
 5. The law of retribution! 3:9-10

The False Prophet

13:11-18

A. **His Description!** 13:11

1. In contrast to the first beast, who will come up out of the sea, the second beast will come up out of the earth.
2. However, like the antichrist, the false prophet will be indwelt by a demon out of the abyss.
3. He is to be the "***the spirit of prophecy***" for this **trinity of evil.**

B. **His Power!** 13:12-14

1. His role is a mimicry and counterfeit of the role of the Holy Spirit.
2. He is the executor of the power given to the first beast.
3. He uses his power for:
 - He causes the people of the earth to worship the beast.
 - The special appeal that he makes is the mortal wound of the beast.
 - He performs great miraculous signs.

4. These demonstrations of power are designed to prove that men ought to worship the beast (vs 13, 14).
5. These signs have the appearance of miracles.
6. We should point out again that “***the ones who dwell on the earth***” designate unbelievers. They are the ones who will be deceived.

C. ***His Program!*** 13:15-18

1. The image of the first beast is given power of speech in order to place the power of control in it.
2. This means that the power of the image issues from the two beasts and the dragon.
3. This is the deception of the entire situation.
4. People will worship an image whose power is demonstrated in mighty signs, but whose dark character has not been publicly shown as evil and grotesque.
5. This worship involves receiving a mark which represents their devotion to the beast. It is a mark of identity.
6. This again is a mimic of the seal of the 144,000.
7. The mark combines religion, economics and government in the most powerful force ever seen in terms of human government (17).

Conclusion

There is a call for special spiritual wisdom. There will be an enlightened remnant who will see through the whole sordid scheme. Being forewarned, they will be forearmed!

Imitations have formed the gravest perils in the history of the Church and the world, and the devil's final attempt to gain the government of the race will be an appalling attempt to imitate. They work because they are similar, if they were so obviously different, it would be easy to tell the difference. We must beware and be familiar with the genuine. Instead of obsessing with fear

and interest about the imitation (antichrist) how much more appropriate is it for Christians to be interested in genuine: Jesus Christ!

Two characteristics for last day saints: Patience and endurance about the first beast (10) and wisdom for the second beast (18).