

**The Third Person of The Unholy Trinity
The False Prophet
Revelation 13:11 – 18**

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We are examining the unholy trinity as shown in Revelation 12 and 13.

Satan and his minions made a final move to take over heaven and did not go very far with the attempt. They have been permanently cast out of heaven by Michael, who is an archangel; and had their wings clipped to the point that they are now limited to only the first heaven, earth.

In Isaiah 14:13 – 14, there are five things Satan says he desires. How is he doing at this point of the Tribulation on those?

Isaiah 14:13 – 14 Checklist

“But you said in your heart,
I will ascend to heaven; **FAILED, kicked out permanently**

I will raise my throne above the stars of God, **and he ultimately took down 1/3 of the heavenly host, but not all and not all at once, but they are with him. FAILED**

I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. **FAILED, access has been removed**

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; **FAILED, access has been removed**

I will make myself like the Most High.” **That is what the unholy trinity is about**

Satan is the dragon as shown in Revelation 12. Now we see in Revelation 13:4, the earth dwellers, at the outset of the Great Tribulation, worship the dragon and they worship his false messiah, the beast.

This false messiah, the beast, has the dragon’s authority at his disposal and he is worshiped by the earth dwellers. In order to complete the unholy trinity, there must be a counterfeit of the Holy Spirit. We are introduced to him as the subject of Revelation 13:11 – 18, the beast from the land, also known as the false prophet.

Let's talk about pronouns.

Revelation 13:11–18

“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and **he** had two horns like a lamb and **he** spoke as a dragon. **He** exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And **he** makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. **He** performs great signs, so that **he** even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. And **he** deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given **him** to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. And it was given to **him** to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. And **he** causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and **he** provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of **his** name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.” (NASB95)

Let's unpack this

The Greek has a different view from what has shown up in the NASB translation. The word translated “he” used in the NASB, can also be translated “it.” The word difference arises from the assumption that the beast is a he, but the grammar in the Greek is in the neuter, not the masculine. The word for beast, θηρίον (therion) is the same word as used for the first beast. As far as God is concerned, this is just another wild animal like the first beast.

θηρίον (therion) - any living creature, excluding humans, animal, beast, of real animals. Often of wild animals in a controlled setting, namely of fighting with animals in an arena. Of animal-like beings of a transcendent kind. Of a monstrous dragon. A wicked person, someone with a ‘bestial’ nature, beast, monster, beasts in human form.” (Arndt, et al. 2000, 455-456)

The definition chosen by the translators for the NASB assumes this is a person, the ESV leaves the option open for this being something else entirely. Just as with the first beast. Is there something to the term “beast” being used by John?

Revelation 13:11–18

“Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. **It** had two horns like a lamb and **it** spoke like a dragon. **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. **It** performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, 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. 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. 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, 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. 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.” (ESV)

The same question arises for the false prophet as for the first beast. Is the use of the term “it” telegraphing something to us about the alleged “humanity” of this individual? Has this individual also undergone some type of enhancement or genetic engineering? Are they now Human+?

Recall that we saw earlier in chapter 13 that the earth dwellers have now moved to worshipping the dragon and the beast. For that to happen, the Great Whore, the Apostate Church, must come to an end.

The beast from the land will be the one who makes that happen. The details of that end of the Great Whore Church will be covered in more detail when we get to chapter 17, but the executive summary is in Revelation 17:16, “And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.” (NASB95)

When this antichrist returns from the dead, his associate, the false prophet, uses the world’s wonder to forge a new world religion reproducing the imperial cult and centered on the universal worship of the dragon and the beast. So while the first beast represents political power, the second beast is the head of a new religion. (Osborne 2016, 230)

Recall that as we reviewed the seven churches, one of the problems was the Imperial Cult; the making of Caesar into a god. Believers who refused to offer a pinch offering of incense annually wound up being persecuted and, in many cases, killed. John knows his readers would be aware of this and thus he uses some of that imagery discussing this second beast.

As we saw from the Septuagint version of Job 40, “the second beast is modeled after another primeval monster—Behemoth, the monster on the land. “ (Reddish 2001, 257)

Job 40:10–27 (LXX)

“But now behold, indeed, the beasts before you. They eat grass just like oxen. Behold now, its strength is in its loins, and its power is in the middle of its belly. It sets its tail like a cypress, and its sinews have been entwined together. Its ribs are ribs of bronze, and its backbone is cast in iron. This is the beginning of the creation of the Lord, being made to be mocked by his angels. But coming upon a flinty mountain, he brought joy to the four-footed creatures in the deep place. Under all kinds of trees it sleeps, by papyrus and reeds and rushes. And great trees overshadow it, with branches and twigs from the field. If a flood should happen, it is not taken notice of. It trusts that the Jordan shall rush up into its mouth. Shall one take it in its eye? Being caught in a snare, shall one pierce its nose? And will you lead the serpent in by a fishhook and put a halter around its nose? Shall you tie a ring in its nose and pierce through its lip with a clasp? And will it speak softly in needy petitions to you? Will it make a covenant with you, and will you take it to be an eternal slave? And will you play with it like a bird, or will you tie it like a sparrow for a child? And shall nations barter for it, and shall the people of Phoenicia divide it? And everything that floats, coming together, shall not carry away the hide of its one tail, nor its head in the ships of fishermen. And he will place a hand on it, remembering the battle that existed in its body.” (Lexham Press 2020, Job 40:10-27)

In verse 11 we see this is “another beast.” The Greek word used for another means another of the same kind.

He too is referred to as a beast, one that comes up from the earth, but is just as vile as the one from the sea.

These two beasts are identical as to genus: they are both θηρία, ravaging powers, hostile to God’s flock and fold. (Alford 1976, 678)

We also see that this beast is “coming up out of the earth.”

F. W. Grant, in 1902, prior to the return of Israel to the land, made comment on this section of scripture “...it is an Israelitish power with which we are here brought face to face. Political events today look to a Jewish resurrection as something in the near future scarcely problematical. Prophecies that we have already to some extent considered intimate that Jewish unbelief is yet to unite with an apostasy of Christendom, and culminate in a “man of sin, the son of perdition, who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (2 Thess. 2:3, 4). Thus we may be prepared to find here a blasphemous, persecuting power rising up in the restored nation; and this may help us to the awful significance of what follows in this place—“He had two horns like a lamb, and spake as a dragon.”” (Grant 1902, 439)

His view is that the beast from the land is someone from Israel. There are other commentators who state that this is the Pope, which is possible as well. This beast is a man, that we know, beyond that is up for grabs.

The first Beast is a political power; the second is a religious leader. The first is a Gentile power and its head a Gentile; the second is a Jew. (Gaebelein 2009, 82)

I am not so sure that this is a Jew, the possibility is there but the text does not say that explicitly.

This second beast is clearly a religious spokesman of some kind and possibly he is the leader of the world religious system as it will culminate in the last days, coming into its ultimate character as the great harlot of Revelation 17. (Morris 1983, 247)

More than likely he is simply an important religious figure representing a rising religious and ecclesiastical movement which this second beast and Satan will use to promote the beast out of the sea (cf. 17:7, 15–16). The harlot in chapter 17 refers to religious Babylon, ecclesiastical Rome. The waters there represent the many nations she has influenced. Walvoord says, “The identification of the second beast as the head of the apostate church is indicated in many ways in the book of Revelation.” While this apostate religious system will be destroyed by the beast (Rev. 17:16), it appears that the false prophet will, because of his close affinity with the first beast, make it through the entire Tribulation period since Revelation 19:20 shows that both the first beast and the false prophet are cast alive into the lake of fire together. (Keathley III 2002, Re 13:11)

This beast is a man, a religious leader of some kind who comes from the area of Israel, but that does not necessarily mean that this is someone who is Jewish. In Israel today, there are leaders from the Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church, Islam, and others.

This religious leader is one who led the apostate church which was responsible for the death of millions of believers.

If we look to history to identify those religious groups who have systematically persecuted believers, we would have to say the Roman Church is a possibility, but so is Islam, Hinduism, and Shamanism. We do know that the leader of the Great Whore, which is seen being destroyed moving into the Great Tribulation, and detailed for us in Revelation 17, is a strong candidate for the beast from the earth.

In view of the diversity of opinions, it is wise to not be overly dogmatic on the issue. (Rhodes 2013, 172)

This beast coming up out of the land has” two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.” If we did not get the idea of the counterfeiting going on here, this makes it clear that this is a phony. Jesus warned about this.

Matthew 7:15

“Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are savage wolves.” (ISV)

John 7:16–18

“Jesus replied to them, “My teaching is not mine but comes from the one who sent me. If anyone wants to do his will, he will know whether this teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own. The one who speaks on his own seeks his own praise. But the one who seeks the praise of him who sent him is genuine, and there is nothing false in him.” (ISV)

This individual will have the outward appearance of Christ, He will look to be a peaceful, loving man, but notice how he speaks...as a dragon. He will say what he needs to say to look the part of the religious man, but if this is the same person who led the apostate church, he already has the blood of millions on his hands. He points to the first beast, operating as a counterfeit of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 16:17–18

“Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.” (NASB95)

Revelation 13:11–12

“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.” (NASB95)

Note the chain of authority: the dragon gives his authority to the first beast (13:2b), and that beast gives his authority to the second. Here, though, it is ἐξουσίαν ... πᾶσαν (exousian ... pasan, all authority), meaning the complete transfer of authority from the Antichrist to his agent to accomplish his nefarious work. (Osborne, Revelation, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament 2002, 512)

When the first beast is revealed fully as who he/it is and is fully empowered by the dragon, immediately after the dragon being cast out, this individual is fully empowered with all the authority that the first beast has.

This second individual arrives on the scene as a religious leader of some kind. He may possibly be working today. He will be a voice of calm and reason, post rapture, as everyone tries to make sense of what just happened. He will have the answer and because he does, all religion will flock to him. Remember, the true church is gone, this is an apostate church consisting of various groups under a single umbrella, and, as we have seen, with a very heavy Islamic undertone.

At some point, he may, just as the first beast, become enhanced or genetically altered, taking on more beastlike characteristics.

There are a couple of events that will have to take place, and with the church removed, the first one appears to be rather obvious...apostasy. The second is a revelation of this person referred to as the beast.

2 Thessalonians 2:3–12

“Do not let anyone deceive you in any way, for it will not come unless the rebellion takes place first and the man of sin, who is destined for destruction, is revealed. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god and object of worship. As a result, he seats himself in the sanctuary of God and himself declares that he is God. Don't you remember that I repeatedly told you about these things when I was still with you? You know what it is that is now holding him back, so that he will be revealed when his time comes. For the secret of this lawlessness is already at work, but only until the person now holding it back gets out of the way. Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will destroy with the breath of his mouth, rendering him powerless by the manifestation of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be accompanied by the power of Satan. He will use every kind of power, including miraculous signs, lying wonders, and every type of evil to deceive those who are dying, those who refused to love the truth that would save them. For this reason, God will send them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie. Then all who have not believed the truth but have taken pleasure in unrighteousness will be condemned.” (ISV)

Two events take place, first the apostasy, second, the revealing of the man of sin. Jesus pointed to this being two separate events as well in Matthew 24

Matthew 24:10–16

“At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the

whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.” (NASB95)

“So how do we characterize the apostasia? I think it’s a rebellion, or an abandonment, betrayal against truth—some item of truth. Defiance... Here’s another semantic thing. Is this a defiant rejection of truth? Defiance has a hard- hearted flavor and would no doubt apply to some who actively reject the faith for whatever motive. If we think of it as an abandonment, then it sounds less defiant. It sounds less in-your-face. It sounds like people are losing faith. It sounds less aggressive than rebellion, but the effect is the same. People, maybe under persecution, they just leave the truth behind. They leave. They stop believing. So I think apostasia could speak to both (a hard-hearted rebellion, an open defiance), but it could also speak to just losing faith (a less defiant flavor in that option). To me, this question doesn’t matter as much because the effect is the same: the truth is left behind.” (Heiser 2018)

The revealing is clear based on the text, the first beast shows up and says, “worship me.” We know that appears to follow, chronologically, shortly after the sudden removal of Satan and his followers from the heavens and their arrival on earth and we know it follows closely after the assassination attempt on the first beast.

At that point, the beast is revealed, and we clearly see the false prophet as well followed closely by the destruction of his previous power base, the apostate church.

Note the condition placed upon the exercise of authority, “in his/its presence.” The authority given to the false prophet is closely monitored and controlled.

We shall see that a primary function of this second beast is much like that of the Holy Spirit in relation to Christ. For he wields equivalent power to the first beast (Rev. 13:12+), yet retains no glory for himself, but constantly witnesses of the first beast, the Antichrist. (Garland 2006, Re 13:11)

The requirement for the authority of the second beast to be able to only be exercising authority on a very short lease is emblematic of a simple fact, even among his pseudo trinity, there is a lack of trust by Satan. Where God has provided His imagers, both human and divine, with free will, Satan does not. He must always be in control.

In the early days of the communist revolution, it was not unusual for those who revolted and then placed the communist party into power, to then be executed. After all, they revolted against one form of government, what would stop them from doing it again?

Isaiah 14:12–14

“Look how you have fallen from the sky, O shining one, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the ground, O conqueror of the nations! You said to yourself, “I will climb up to the sky. Above the stars of El I will set up my throne. I will rule on the mountain of assembly on the remote slopes of Zaphon. I will climb up to the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High!” (NET)

Satan is a rebel, he managed to get Adam and Eve to rebel, but they did not turn around and follow him, instead, they made themselves to be god. Being a rebel and a leader of rebels, the 1/3 of the divine beings who ultimately fell with him; he knows that he must consolidate and maintain power and trust no one. This extends even to the members of his profane trinity.

So, why get rid of the apostate church? It was a threat. Satan, the dragon, desires to be worshipped and that means to allow no other options at all.

God allows choice, Satan doesn’t, thus “...And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.” (Revelation 13:12, NASB95)

There is to be no other option under the rule of the beast, worship the beast or die. This is reflected in the word ποιεῖ (poieih), makes, which shows up five times in this section.

Four of the five uses of poieō (vv. 12a, 12b, 13a, 16) are “dramatic” uses of the present tense to point out vividly the habitual practice of the beast in doing these things. This is a satanic imitation of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in pointing people to Christ. (Thomas 1995, 174)

Does the Holy Spirit “make” us do anything? Of course not, but this false version does. He makes earth dwellers worship the first beast under pain of death. He will also try and make those remaining tribulation believers and Jews also worship the beast as well.

This worship is based on the counterfeit resurrection; one that is not a resurrection. This is not the real resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The power over the people of the earth that the first beast has is such that the second beast, acting as his agent, has the ability to compel people to do his will. The phrase “the earth and those who inhabit it” is found only here in Revelation; more characteristic phrases are “the inhabitants of the earth,” which occurs nine times (see Comment on 3:10), and “the whole earth” (3:10; 12:9; 13:3; 16:14). (Aune 1998, 758)

Revelation 13:13

“He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.” (NASB95)

The NASB translation implies the beast is a he, however, the Greek pronoun is not he, but more properly, relying on the neuter noun beast, it. Much depends on the context and it is possible to also translate as he, but again, just what are we talking about?

Revelation 13:13

“It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people,” (ESV)

And just as the initial coming of the Holy Spirit was accompanied by miracles, in verse 13 the coming of the False Prophet will also be accompanied by miracles. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 16)

With the giving of the gift of the Holy Spirit, tongues of fire appeared over each believer, they spoke in tongues, there was a manifestation of God’s power. Satan is counterfeiting that.

Acts 2:1–11

“On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed.

“These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” (NLT)

Unlike the giving of the Holy Spirit, the fire being called down by the false prophet is not only a counterfeit of the power of the Holy Spirit exhibited in Acts 2, but also a counterfeit of the two witnesses, true prophets, who call down very real fire. This demonstration of power though is not to show the power of God, but the delegated power of the beast. The purpose of the demonstration is meant to destroy those who would not worship the Beast.

A vivid exhibition of supernatural power, in the same vein as with Elijah, will be very compelling to many still alive on earth at that time.

2 Thessalonians 2:8–10

“Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming. This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them.” (NLT)

The challenge will be for those who are Jews as well as those who are believers and might be tempted to give in to this demonstration of supernatural power, to remember and adhere to what it says in Deuteronomy 13:1–3.

Deuteronomy 13:1–3

“If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.” (NASB95)

Who does the demonstration of power point to? Does it point to Jesus, or someone else?

1 John 4:1–3

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.” (NASB95)

This rule has not changed.

Matthew 24:23–25

“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance.” (NASB95)

It is also already in the church, we were warned...continuously, see 1 John 4:1 – 3 again.

True New Testament miracles always pointed to the person of Christ. Therefore, if the glory of God and the Good News of Christ aren’t clarified or enhanced by a supposedly extraordinary act, it isn’t a miracle of God. (Hinn and Wood 2018, 10)

As it tends to be overlooked today, when false miracles and teachings take place, it will be overlooked during the Tribulation as well. Satan’s lies never really change. This idea of counterfeit miracles also shows up in other literature in and around Israel during the NT era.

The Ascension Of Isaiah The Prophet 4:2 – 12

And after it has been brought to completion, Beliar will descend, the great angel, the king of this world, which he has ruled ever since it existed. He will descend from his firmament in the form of a man, a king of iniquity, a murderer of his mother—this is the king of this world—3 and will persecute the plant which the twelve apostles of the Beloved will have planted; some of the twelve will be given into his hand. 4 This angel, Beliar, will come in the form of that king, and with him will come all the powers of this world, and they will obey him in every wish. 5 By his word he will cause the sun to rise by night, and the moon also he will make to appear at the sixth hour. 6 And he will do everything he wishes in the world; he will act

and speak like the Beloved, and will say, "I am the LORD, and before me there was no one." 7 And all men in the world will believe in him. 8 They will sacrifice to him and will serve him, saying, "This is the LORD, and besides him there is no other." 9 And the majority of those who have associated together to receive the Beloved he will turn aside after him. 10 And the power of his miracles will be in every city and district, 11 and he will set up his image before him in every city. 12 And he will rule for three years and seven months and twenty-seven days. (Unknown 1985, 161-162)

The unspoken assumption is this: Where miracles are, there God is. The false prophet's signs are deceptive. They seem to support the antichrist's claim to deity. (Rhodes 2013, 174-175)

Revelation 13:14

"And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life." (NASB95)

Once again, the idea of deception and a reminder of what we saw in 2 Thessalonians 2:8 – 10. Deception is specific for those who will not believe, those who are earth dwellers.

The trust factor pops up again, these signs will be performed by the false prophet only in the presence of the beast.

Just as Satan is a liar, so too will be the second beast. Deception and lies will be a hallmark of this individual as will be the desires of the dragon. "He is the Antichrist's Minister of Propaganda." (Mounce 1997, 257)

Revelation 13:14

"It deceives those living on earth with the signs that it is allowed to do on behalf of the first beast, telling them to make an image for the beast who was wounded by a sword and yet lived." (ISV)

The image to be made is for the beast, not of the beast. A close examination of the text shows us this. This is not the construction of an idol or an image of the beast, this is something being built for the beast. WE will take a look at the definition of the Greek word

Image - εἰκόνα (icona) – We get the English word icon from this. This word means = 1. An object shaped to resemble the form or appearance of something, likeness, portrait of the emperor's head on a coin. Of an image of a god. 2. That which has the same form as something else (not a crafted object as in 1 above), living image, of a man, image of the earthly, heavenly (human being) The image corresponds to its original. 3. That which represents something else in terms of basic form and features, form, appearance; a human figure; the face and the form; (Arndt, et al. 2000, 281-282)

On our computers, either Apple or Microsoft based, we have various images, icons, which we can use to access programs, or systems and then use them. These icons represent various programs. Icons, logos, are also used in advertising as well. You see an image and you know what it means and represents.

This is something the false prophet is ordering to be built for or to the first beast. Is John seeing the logo, the icon that represents something else in the background? What is Greek usage of the word?

εἰκόν (etymologically linked with εἴκω, εἴκω, "to be similar," "to be like," "to appear"), means an image in various senses: a. in the strict sense as an "artistic representation," e.g., a painting, statue or impress on a, the "image of a god, or naturally a "reflection" or "apparition; b. in the metaphorical sense of a "mental image, a "similitude"; and finally c. in the sense of a "copy," a "living image," a "likeness," an "embodiment," a "manifestation". (Kittel 1964-, 388-389)

As man, we are imagers, icons, of God. As believers, we are disciples of Jesus Christ. "Discipleship, however, does cost us something. Following Jesus is often not easy. Being a disciple requires making

choices—to love and honor God, to treat people for what they are—fellow imagers of God that he loves and wants to bring into his family through the gospel.” (Heiser, What Does God Want? 2018, 68)

As disciples, we are adopted, we are part of God’s family and as such He expects us to, like in all families, act like we belong to His. The Holy Spirit empowers us to do this as we become more like Jesus.

Romans 8:29

“For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;” (NASB95)

“The general statement that the Christian is to be conformed, or to become the brother of the Firstborn, is given its distinctive emphasis by the fact that the Christian will participate in the divine likeness manifested in Christ. The man who is an image of Christ is an image in the specific sense which is the true and original sense for those familiar with the Bible, namely, the sense of Genesis 1:27.” (Kittel 1964-, 396)

Satan is also counterfeiting this, but he does not supply anything or anyone to help his followers, he demands, through the first beast, total and complete obedience under pain of death. This image, or icon, which is being built, is part of that overall plan. Could this be a large image, either holographic or robotic, of the first beast, possible.

The language though, in the Greek of verse 15, points to another possibility that needs to also be considered.

Revelation 13:15

“And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.” (NASB95)

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.” (ESV)

Revelation 13:15

“The second beast was allowed to impart life to the image of the first beast so that the image of the beast could talk and order the execution of those who would not worship the image of the beast.” (ISV)

So what does this point to? That, we will discuss next week.

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