

The Antichrist and the False Prophet

Revelation 13

Introduction

- The **seventh seal** of the scroll is opened by Jesus and it introduced the seven trumpet judgments.
- We have studied the judgments contained in the **first six trumpets**.
- The **seventh trumpet** sounds in **11:15** and sets in motion the final events leading up to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and the establishment of His earthly millennial kingdom.
- The **seventh trumpet** calls for prolonged waves of judgment on the ungodly and ultimately ends with the coronation of Jesus as King of the Earth.

Introduction

- In Revelation 13, which is part of the **seventh trumpet** information, we learn about the Antichrist and the False Prophet.

The Antichrist 13:1-10

His Description: (13:1-2)

Revelation 13:1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

- The “sea” symbolizes the Gentile nations (Rev. 17:15)
- From one of the Gentile nations, Antichrist arises.
- In Rev. 17:9 we learn that the “seven heads” are actually seven mountains.

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- The “ten horns” represent ten kingdoms (Dan. 7:24; Rev. 17:12-14). It appears that Antichrist will lead a ten-nation coalition.
- Listen to **Revelation 17:12-14**: The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful.

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His Description: (13:1-2)

² Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet of* a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

- Antichrist's power is derived from Satan.
- Remember: Antichrist begins his career as a peacemaker (Rev. 6:2) and "solved" the Arab-Israeli problem by making a covenant with the Jews for seven years (Dan. 9:27), making it possible for the Jewish Temple to be built.

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- Listen to **Daniel 9:27**: “He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”
- In the middle of the week (the 7 year Tribulation period), Antichrist will break the covenant and declare himself to be god.

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The Antichrist receives a mortal wound and is healed (13:3-5)

³ And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

- The Antichrist is attacked and receives a deadly wound but is miraculously healed.
- **Revelation 17:8** "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel,

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- whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”
- This sounds like Satan, working through His followers, is given permission by God to bring back to life the Antichrist, who died and had gone to hell. He “**was,**” [he lived] “**and is not,**” [he was killed by a mortal wound] “**and yet is**” [and then was miraculously brought back to life].
- If God allows Satan to give life to a dead idol (Rev. 13:15), could not God allow Satan to return life to a dead body?

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- Listen to Revelation 13:15: He [the False Prophet] 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.
- A miracle of healing (bringing Antichrist back from the dead) convinces the world that Antichrist is god.

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The Antichrist receives a mortal wound and is healed (13:3-5)

⁴ So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who *is* like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

- The Antichrist receives worship from the watching world.
- The Antichrist is a military leader that causes nations to fear him.
- Worship is the one thing Satan has always wanted (Mat. 4:8-10) and he will receive it through the "beast" who is the Antichrist.

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The Antichrist receives a mortal wound and is healed (13:3-5)

⁵ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.

- Notice the phrase, “was given.” Neither Satan nor the Antichrist can do anything without God’s permission.
- The authority of the Antichrist lasts for 3 ½ years which is the last half of the seven-year Tribulation period.

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The Antichrist defies God and seeks to destroy those who worship God (13:6-8).

⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

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⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

- Notice the two groups of people. Those who worship the Antichrist and do his bidding and the saved – those who do have their names written in the Book of Life (the saved).
- The world will not worship the real Christ, but they will receive a false Christ (the Antichrist). It is like Jesus said, "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive" (John 5:43).

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- Paul wrote about the Antichrist in **2 Thessalonians 2:8-12**:
“And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

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- The world will not believe the “truth” but they will believe “the lie” and receive the blasphemous words of “the beast” (Antichrist).

An exhortation to the people of God (13:9-10)

⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

- The vision of the “beast from the sea” concludes with a call for spiritual understanding and instructions for the saved who live at this time.

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¹⁰ He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

- This statement contains important practical truth for those believers alive at the time of Antichrist's persecution. They are to depend on God's sovereign will for their lives. Those believers God allows to be captured are to accept that captivity as God's will. Those that God allows to die must not retaliate against their persecutors. They are to exemplify what it means to persevere and maintain their faith in the face of persecution.

The False Prophet 13:11-18

A description of the “beast out of the earth” – (the False Prophet) 13:11)

¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.

- In Revelation 16:13; 19:20; and 20:10, we learn that the “beast out of the earth” is called “the false prophet.”
- This “false prophet” looks like a “lamb” but speaks powerfully and forcefully like a “dragon.”
- The Antichrist will be primarily a political and military leader, but the False Prophet will be a religious leader.

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- The “dragon” (Satan) is the counterfeit Father (“I will be like the Most High”), “the beast out of the sea” is the counterfeit Christ [Antichrist], and the “beast out of the earth” (the False Prophet) is the counterfeit Holy Spirit.
- This is the satanic trinity which fights against the holy trinity.

The False Prophet 13:11-18

The role of the beast out of the earth – (the False Prophet) 13:12-14)

¹² And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

- One of the main ministries of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ and to lead people to trust and worship Him. Listen to John 16:13:

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- **John 16:13** "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.
- The main ministry of the False Prophet is to point to Antichrist and his image and compel people to worship Antichrist.

The False Prophet 13:11-18

¹³ He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

- “great signs” – is the same phrase is used of Jesus’ miracles (John 2:11, 23; 6:2) which indicates the false prophet performs signs that counterfeit Christ’s.
- “fire come down from heaven” – in imitation of the two witnesses (11:5).

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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, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

- The power of Satan to deceive (12:9; 20:3, 8) is shared by the false prophet (cf. 19:20). He is the Antichrist's Minister of Propaganda.
- The False Prophet makes an image of the Antichrist. He will lead the worldwide cult of Antichrist worship.

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¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ 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,

¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

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- The image of Antichrist not only speaks but also passes a sentence of death upon all who would not worship it.
- In the final days of Antichrist, only those who are willing to die for their faith will resist the mark of Antichrist.

The False Prophet 13:11-18

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.

- In the ancient world, the letters of the alphabet were used for numbers, both in Greek and in Hebrew.
- Bible scholars have made many attempts to unravel the mystery of this name and number. All such attempts have failed.
- Avoid speculation and people who tell you they know who it is!

Conclusion

- We have reached the last 3 ½ yrs of the Tribulation in our study – known as “**the Great Tribulation.**”
- **Chapter 12** introduced us to the great dragon (Satan) who is the primary adversary of God.
- In **chapter 13** we met the two great forces used by Satan to accomplish his nefarious plans: Antichrist and the False Prophet.
- The stage is being set for the final encounter of the war between the **satanic trinity** (Satan, Antichrist, and the False Prophet) vs the **holy trinity** (Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit) that will be fought at Armageddon.

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