

Feb 26-2023

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wishes
Heather & school
Linda heart work & (28)

Lesson 24 Rev Chap 13:11-18

Revelation 13:11-18 (NASB)

11 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.

12 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.

13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.

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.

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.

16 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,

17 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.

18 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.

Carver
pray for
California
near bill
on both
sides
mike
Canon
Admin
test
Peace
in World

7. THE SEVENTH PERSONAGE: THE BEAST OUT OF THE EARTH (13:11-18)

A. INTRODUCTION OF THE BEAST OUT OF THE EARTH (13:11-12)

13:11-12. In contrast with the first beast who came "out of the sea" (v. 1), the second beast came out of the earth. He was similar to the first beast (*thērion*, "a beast," was used of both personages). However, while the first beast was a Gentile, since he came from the entire human race as symbolized by "the sea" (v. 1), the second beast was a creature of the earth. Some have taken this as a specific reference to the Promised Land and have argued that he was therefore a Jew. There is no support for this in the context as the word for "earth" is the general word referring to the entire world (*gē*). Actually his nationality and geographic origin are not indicated, and he is apparently the one referred to as "the false prophet" in 19:20 and 20:10. (For a comprehensive discussion of the two beasts see Alford, *The Greek New Testament*, 4:678-79.)

The second beast had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon, that is, like Satan. From this it can be gathered that he was a religious character whose role was to support the political ruler, the first beast. He had great authority apparently derived from Satan and the political ruler, and he made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, the one whose fatal wound had been healed.

The false religious system, which was supported in this way imitated the divine Trinity. Satan seeks to take the place of God the Father; the first beast assumes the place of Jesus Christ, the Son, the King of kings; and the second beast, the false prophet, has a role similar to the Holy

Spirit who causes Christians to worship God. **This is Satan's final attempt to substitute a false religion for true faith in Christ.**

B. THE MIRACLES OF THE BEAST (13:13-15)

13:13-15. To induce people to worship the first beast, the second beast performs **great and miraculous signs** (lit., "great signs," *sēmeia megala*; cf. "a great... sign" in [12:1](#)), including **fire... from heaven**. People sometimes overlook the fact that, while God can do supernatural things, Satan within certain limitations can also perform miracles, and he used this **power** to the full in this situation to induce people to worship Satan's substitute for Christ. Accordingly the second beast **deceived the inhabitants of the earth**.

In addition to causing fire to come down from heaven, the second beast set up an image of the first beast. The image was probably set up in the first temple in Jerusalem which was taken over from the Jews. According to Paul ([2 Thes. 2:4](#)) **the first beast actually sat in God's temple at times and received worship which properly belonged to God**. Perhaps the beast's image was placed in the same temple to provide an object of worship when the beast himself was not there.

This image was mentioned frequently ([Rev. 13:14-15](#); [14:9](#), [11](#); [15:2](#); [16:2](#); [19:20](#); [20:4](#)). Whether the image was in the form of the world ruler, the first beast, or merely some object of worship is not clear, **but it did seem to symbolize the power of the first beast**.

The fact that the second beast could **give breath to the image of the first beast, even making it speak**, has created problems for expositors, for the Bible does not seem to indicate that Satan has the power to give life to an inanimate object. **Only God is the Creator**. So probably the beast's image is able to give an **impression of breathing and speaking mechanically**, like computerized talking robots today. There might be a combination of natural and supernatural powers to enable the beast out of the earth to accomplish his purpose. It apparently was quite convincing to people and induced them to worship the image.

The command to **worship the image** as well as the first beast was enforced by killing those who **refused to** do so. **But there was a difference between the decree to put them to death and its execution**. The problem of ferreting out everyone in the entire earth who would not worship the beast would naturally take time. Hitler, in his attempt to exterminate the Jews, took many months and never completed his task. The multitude of martyrs is referred to in [7:9-17](#).

C. THE MARK OF THE BEAST (13:16-18)

13:16-18. Enforcing his control over the human race and encouraging worship of the beast out of the sea, the second beast required **everyone... to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead**, and without this evidence that he had worshiped the beast **no one could buy or sell**. The need to buy or sell such necessities as food and clothing **would force each person in the entire world to decide whether to worship the beast or to bear the penalty**. Apparently the great majority worshiped the beast.

There has been much speculation on the insignia or "mark" of the beast, but it could be any of several kinds of identification. Countless attempts have been made to interpret the number **666**, usually using the numerical equivalents of letters in the Hebrew, Greek, or other alphabets. As there probably have been hundreds of explanations continuing down to the present day, it is obvious that if the number refers to an individual it is not clear to whom it refers.

Probably the best interpretation is that the number six is one less than the perfect number seven, and the threefold repetition of the six would indicate that for all their pretensions to deity, Satan and the two beasts were just creatures and not the Creator. That six is **man's number** is illustrated in many instances in the Bible, including the fact that man should work six days and rest the seventh. (For further discussion of the many views cf. Mounce, *The Book of Revelation*, pp. 263-65; Smith, *A Revelation of Jesus Christ*, pp. 206-7; and Walvoord, *Revelation*, pp. 209-12.)

The practice of gematria, the attempt to find hidden meanings in numbers in Scripture, was prominent in the ancient world. Maybe John had in mind a particular person whom his close associates would be able to identify. Literature from the early church fathers, however, reveals the same confusion and variety of meanings that exist today, so probably it is best to leave this puzzle unsolved. Probably the safest conclusion is that of Thomas F. Torrance, "This evil trinity 666 apes the Holy Trinity 777, but always falls short and fails" (*The Apocalypse Today*, p. 86).

[Chapter 13](#) is important because it introduces two of the main characters of Revelation: the beast out of the sea, the world dictator; and the beast out of the earth, the false prophet and chief supporter of the political ruler. There is no evidence that either of them is a Jew though some have identified one or the other as an apostate Jew based on the expression "the God of his fathers" ([Dan. 11:37](#), KJV). However, the Hebrew word *ʾēlōhîm* is a general word for god, quite different from *Yahweh*, and there is no proof that in Daniel it refers to the God of Israel. In recent translations it is "gods" (cf. ASV, NASB, NEB, NIV, and RSV). Thus while it has been popular to consider either the first or the second ruler of [Revelation 13](#) as an apostate Jew, the supporting evidence is lacking. Both beasts are probably Gentiles inasmuch as this will be the final hour of the time of the Gentiles, when Gentiles will tramp underfoot the city of Jerusalem ([Luke 21:24](#)), and both rulers will persecute Jews as well as believing Gentiles.

[Revelation 13](#), however, gives much insight into the character of the Great Tribulation. It will be a time of one world government and one world religion, with one world economic system. Those who will resist the ruler and refuse to worship him will be subject to execution, and the martyrs may outnumber the believers who survive. It will be Satan's final and ultimate attempt to cause the world to worship him and to turn them from the worship of the true God and Jesus Christ as their Savior.

This chapter also makes it clear that the postmillennial dream of a world getting better and better through Christian effort and gospel preaching is not supported in the Bible. Instead the final form of world religion will be apostate, satanic, and blasphemous. There are many indications today that the world is heading in this direction, with the corresponding conclusion that the coming of the Lord may be near.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

Open it

1. What is the most amazing trick you have ever seen a magician or an illusionist perform?
Hide and move large objects in seconds

Explore it

2. How did John describe the beast he saw coming out of the earth? ([13:11](#))
Two horns like a lamb and spoke as a dragon
3. What did the second beast make the inhabitants of earth do? ([13:12](#))
Worship the first beast
4. How did the second beast deceive everyone all over the world? ([13:13-14](#))
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
5. What evil act did the second beast require of everyone all over the world? ([13:14](#))
Build an image to the first beast.
6. How did the beast out of the earth use his Satanic power in relation to the image of the beast out of the sea? ([13:15](#))
He made it to appear to breath and speak, and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.
7. What happened to those who refused to worship the image of the beast out of the sea? ([13:15](#))
They were executed.
8. What did the beast out of the earth (also called the false prophet) force every living person to do? ([13:16](#))
To take the mark of the beast on their right hand for forehead
9. What consequences awaited those who refused to take the mark of the beast? ([13:17](#))
They were not allowed to buy and sell goods
10. To what does the rise of the beast call us? ([13:18](#))
To wisdom and understanding of what the beast represents
11. How did John say one could "calculate the number of the beast"? ([13:18](#))
By the number of Man, which is 6

Get it

12. What are some chief ways people are deceived or blinded by Satan today?

Money, fame, popularity, head knowledge

13. What should we do to be wise about the schemes of Satan?

Trust in God and read the bible for knowledge

14. How would you react to a giant statue that could talk and move?

Nice Robot!!

Apply it

15. How can you shine the light of Christ in your part of our world?

Do as Jesus would do

16. What actions could you take today to instruct or guide a young Christian?

Be a mentor to someone and teach them the Gospel

Revelation 19:20 (NASB)

²⁰ And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

Revelation 20:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Revelation 12:1 (NASB)

¹ A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;

2 Thessalonians 2:4 (NASB)

⁴ who opposes and exalts 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.

Revelation 13:14 (NASB)

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.

Revelation 13:15 (NASB)

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.

Revelation 14:9 (NASB)

⁹ Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,

Revelation 14:11 (NASB)

¹¹ "And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

Revelation 15:2 (NASB)

² And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God.

Revelation 16:2 (NASB)

² So the first *angel* went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.

Revelation 19:20 (NASB)

²⁰ And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

Revelation 20:4 (NASB)

⁴ Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Revelation 7:9 (NASB)

⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches *were* in their hands;

Revelation 7:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Revelation 7:11 (NASB)

¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and *around* the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

Revelation 7:12 (NASB)

¹² saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *be* to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Revelation 7:13 (NASB)

¹³ Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?"

Revelation 7:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 7:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them.

Revelation 7:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ "They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat;

Revelation 7:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

Daniel 11:37 (NASB)

³⁷ "He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any *other* god; for he will magnify himself above *them* all.

Luke 21:24 (NASB)

²⁴ and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.