

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

This evening we are continuing our study through the Book of Revelation –

A few weeks ago when we looked at Revelation 12 – we saw the spiritual battle that will take place between Satan and Michael.

And we saw Satan's access restricted in heaven – so as he is cast down on earth, he turns his attention to the Jews – as he knows that his time here on earth is short.

And we also saw God's hand of protection upon His people as He intervenes on their behalf to protect them as they flee persecution.

In our study tonight, we are going to get a closer look at the antichrist –

Now, before we begin, the name antichrist doesn't necessarily mean someone who is the opposite of Christ.

The Greek word that is used in "anti" is the word for "in the place of"

So the antichrist will come onto the world scene to take the place of Christ, to take the role of the Messiah in place of Jesus.

Let's pray...

**[Rev 13:1-18 NKJV] 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.**

Turn with me back to Revelation 12

**[Rev 12:3-4 NKJV] 3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.**

In Revelation 12, John was in heaven and he provides the description of the fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horn – and he then proceeds to tell us toward the middle of the chapter that the identity of the dragon – that is Satan.

Here in chapter 13, John is no longer in heaven – he is on the beach and he sees a beast rising up out of the sea.

This beast also has seven heads and ten horns – like the dragon.

But the beast also has 10 crowns on his 10 horns.

Notice that John doesn't describe this individual as the dragon in ch 12 – he clearly identifies him as the beast.

Meaning that they are separate individuals – yet the beast is still closely identified with the dragon.

So the beast here is the antichrist.

Turn with me to Dan 7

**[Dan 7:23-25 NKJV] 23 "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all [other] kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces. 24 The ten horns [are] ten kings [Who] shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first [ones], And shall subdue three kings. 25 He shall speaK [pompous] words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then [the saints] shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.**

We see many similarities between Daniel's vision and John's vision regarding the antichrist.

John tells us in verse 1 that the "on his heads, there will be a blasphemous name" meaning that those ten nations that he will rule with – they will each carry a name that will blaspheme God.

Daniel tells us that the antichrist will speak pompous words against the Most High – he will blaspheme God.

**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.**

Once again – John doesn't describe the beast as the dragon – he describes the best with the animals – leopard, bear and lion.

If these three animals sound familiar to you – they should because these were the animals that Daniel described in his vision in chapter 7 –

He was describing the world empires that will rule the earth –

The leopard – which described the Greek Empire

The Bear – described the Medo-Persian empire

The lion described the Babylonian Empire.

And the animals each characterized how they came to power or how they ruled.

So John described the government that the Antichrist is going to rule with during the Tribulation Period, it's going to have many characteristics taken from these ancient empires.

At the end of verse two, John tells us that the dragon – Satan - gives the beast his power, his throne and his great authority.

Turn with me to Matthew 4,

**[Mat 4:8-10 NKJV] 8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "**

Jesus had come to reclaim the world and the devil offered Him a shortcut; the devil offered Him an easier way than the cross.

And as we just read, Jesus refused the devil's offer of earthly domination.

However, Satan is going to make the same offer to the antichrist - and he will take it - and he will be given powers to do wonders and deceive people.

**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. 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?"**

John tells us that the antichrist is going to suffer some type of mortal injury.

Later on, when we get to verse 14, it will tell us that the wound was inflicted by a weapon.

So the antichrist is going to mortally wounded and then he is going to be miraculously healed.

He will mimic the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**[2Th 2:9 NKJV] 9 The coming of the [lawless one] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,**

So, by overcoming this mortal wound, the world will begin to marvel at the antichrist.

They will begin to think that no one can oppose and defeat the antichrist – after all, “how do you defeat a guy who rises from the dead?”

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

I had you make a note where John says that the antichrist will be given a mouth speaking great things –

This means that he will be a great orator – meaning that people will be drawn to whatever he speaks –

And he will do this for 3.5 years.

I had you make a note where it says, “he was given authority”

And the reason I had you make a note is because, we should be comforted with these words, because they reveal to us that God is still in control.

That authority is going to be given by God – after the 3.5 years – it comes to an end.

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

The antichrist is going to be a great orator – and in his speeches, he is going to blaspheme God.

One of the ways that he is going to blaspheme God is by claiming the Jesus is not the Christ.

**[1John 2:22 NKJV] 22 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.**

Another way he is going to blaspheme God is stating that Jesus did not come in the flesh.

**[1John 4:2-3 NKJV] 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the [spirit] of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.**

Another way he is going to blaspheme is by making himself to be God.

**[2Th 2:3-4 NKJV] 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for [that Day will not come] unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God**

**or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**

Those who dwell in heaven at the end of verse 6 – is in reference to the Christians that were raptured at the start of the Tribulation period and out of the reach of the antichrist.

**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.**

The saints that is spoken of here is in reference to those who accepted Jesus Christ after the rapture of the church –

Overcoming them simply means that the antichrist is going to persecute and kill many of those who come to Christ during the Tribulation Period.

**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.**

**It's those whose names are NOT in the Lamb's book that are going to be deceived to worship the antichrist.**

### The Good News

There is a way to know that your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

By accepting God's gift of grace, the sacrifice of Jesus who died for our sins.

When Jesus died on the cross, He was paying the price for sins.

He paid a debt He didn't owe because we owed a debt we couldn't pay.

**(Is 53:5 NKJV) But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.**

When we choose to follow Jesus, to believe in Jesus, to believe that He is the One who has paid for our sins, we are saved from having to face the penalty for our sins – we are saved from having to spend eternity in hell.

**(Jn 3:16 NKJV) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

There is no way that one will be able to worship the beast and still have their names written in the Book of Life of the Lamb.

**9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 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.**

Here in verse 9-10, John exhorts the church.

And what he is exhorting the church revolves around the tribulations that they are going through.

Those that are persecuting the saints, those that are killing the saints one day, they will be judged for what they do.

In other words, John is telling the church that God is going to work things out in the end.

The person who doesn't understand the Book of Revelation will go through life in his own personal tribulation.

The person who grabs hold of Revelation, on the other hand, will live in a state of anticipation and celebration.

Every single one of us will either go through this week in tribulation or celebration.

Life is short.

The Lord is in control.

We're going to heaven. That's what this book is about.

And the way we endure our personal tribulations and our trials is by looking to Jesus Christ.

**[Heb 12:1-2 NKJV] 1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares [us], and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of [our] faith, who for the joy that**

**was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**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.**

So here we have another individual –

This one didn't come out of the sea – it came up from the earth.

He had two horns but notice that he didn't have any crowns like the dragon or the first beast – meaning that he really didn't have any political power.

This second beast is called the false prophet –

This “false prophet” will apparently be some sort of religious figure whose role it will be to support the political figure we call the “antichrist”.

**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.**

The role of the “false prophet” will be to point people to the antichrist.

You can see a sort of perverted counterfeit of the Trinity at work.

We worship the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Father sent His Son.

The Son died and rose from the dead.

The Holy Spirit comes to glorify the Son.

The Satanic trinity (or the unholy trinity) is the devil, the antichrist, and the false prophet.

The devil empowers the antichrist with his power.

The antichrist has a deadly wound and is healed.

The false prophet glorifies the beast.

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

A few weeks ago, when we looked at the two witnesses (Rev 11)

We said that it will most likely be Moses and Elijah.

And one of the ways that they were gifted was that God gave them the ability to call down fire from heaven on those that tried to persecute them.

The calling fire from heaven was also a sign that would tell people that God approved a sacrifice.

So what we have here is the “false prophet” being given the ability to call down fire from heaven – from satan.

So not only is he copying the two witnesses that God had sent –

But once the antichrist demands the people worship him – the false prophet will be able to call down fire from heaven making it seem that God approves of the worship of this image of the beast.

Some people believe it will be a statue – we don't know.

**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.**

This statue – is going to come to life

It is going to speak and interact intelligently with individuals.

And it will also have the ability to put those who refuse to worship it – to death.

This is what we saw back in the book of Daniel – when Daniel's friends were thrown in the oven by Nebuchadnezer for not worshipping the image that he had erected –

**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,**

The false prophet is going to have people receive this mark on their right hand or their foreheads.

Why?

Two possibilities –

The first one is that when the Children of Israel came out of Egypt, God commanded them to always have the law on their right and on their foreheads and many of them took it literally and had little scrolls they would carry on their arm or in a little box that was mounted on their forehead.

**The antichrist will have his “mark” put in the place where God wants His law written.**

Another possibility is that the right hand and the forehead point to where the antichrist suffered his mortal wound. (Zech 11:17)

So by having the people get the mark on the right hand or the forehead, they were honoring the antichrist.

**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. 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.**

Without the mark – no one will be able to buy anything or sell anything or do any monetary transactions –

I have heard people speculate that the mark is going to be a tattoo or it could be a chip that is installed underneath the skin that people will be able to scan and download your health and financial records.

I have read about some companies using something very similar – where their badges implanted underneath their skin – and all they do is scan the back of their hand and it opens doors and gives them access to their computers.

Will it be possible for someone to accidentally “take the mark”?

The answer is “no”

Receiving the mark will be clearly tied to the worship of the beast, the antichrist.

Once again, no one will have the mark and their name written in the Book of Life –

Choosing the mark – will be denying Christ.

Let's pray...