

Revelation - Chapter 12 & 13

The War, The Beast & His Prophet

After John has witnessed God's wrath poured out in the Trumpet Judgments he experiences the second interlude. A massive angel vows before God that there will be delay no longer. Two fearless witnesses preach the gospel, fulfilling Jesus' declaration that, "the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matt 24:14).

The seventh angel blew the seventh trumpet and John hears a great symphony of voices expressing unrestrained joy that the power of Satan is to be forever broken and Christ is to reign supreme. There is a promise given to believers of unbroken fellowship with God forever.

John will not see the results of the seventh trumpet until later in Chapter 16. He now sees a series of signs or symbols of events that will occur in Heaven and on earth during the Great Tribulation.

War in Heaven

There has been war in heaven since the fall of Satan and a third of the angels (Isa 14:12-14; Eze 28:11-18). Even though Satan was formally expelled from Heaven, God still allowed him to come and accuse all the saints before God.



Once again, probably at the beginning of the seven-year Tribulation Period but no later than the midpoint of the Tribulation, Satan wages war in Heaven with Michael, an angel of high rank who guards the people of Israel (Dan 10:13; 12:1). Michael and his angels are more powerful and Satan along with his evil host are cast down to earth. This is Satans' second and permanent expulsion from Heaven.

Warning Given to Earth & Sea

A warning is given to the earth and sea that Satan has great wrath because he has only a short period of time left. No longer having access to God to accuse believers, Satan will wage an unprecedented war on anyone belonging to God, especially Israel. The Jews have been hated, ridiculed and persecuted throughout all of history. This will be the worst and final wave of anti-Semitism that will roll over the world as God defends and protects His people.

Three Attacks on Jews & Believers of Christ

Enraged by his ejection from Heaven, Satan pursues and persecutes the Jews. God intervenes directly on the Jews behalf and John sees Israel escaping into the wilderness on wings of the great eagle symbolizing God's strength (Isa 40:31) and protection (Deut 32:9-11; Psa 17:8; 57:1).



Just as God provided manna and quail in the wilderness to His people (Ex 16:12) God will again supernaturally feed His people for three and one-half years. While it is clear that God does preserve a godly remnant, Zechariah 13:8 indicates that two-thirds of Israel in the land will perish.

Frustrated by his defeat, Satan will launch a second attack on the Jews. Satan's attacking force will sweep toward the Jews' hiding place like a great flood. Once again, Satan will not prevail. Enraged that he has lost again, Satan turns his fury toward new targets. This time he attacks all of those who name the name of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and hold to the testimony of Jesus. As we will see, Satan also is defeated in this attempt.

Satan Sets Up His Earthly Kingdom

Satan will try to prevent Jesus from setting up His earthly kingdom by setting up his own kingdom under Antichrist. Together with the False Prophet, they will embody the sum total of all the world empires that have opposed God and His people throughout history.

John sees Satan as a great red dragon with seven heads, ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. Red describes Satan's vicious, deadly nature. He is depicted as the ruler of the world and seven-headed monster that represents seven consecutive world empires running their course under Satan's dominion: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and Antichrist's future empire.



The ten forms represent the kings of the ten-nation confederacy who will rule under Antichrist. The shifting of the diadems from the dragon's heads to the beast's horns reveal the shift in power from the seven consecutive world empires to the ten kings under the final Antichrist. Satan is the counterfeit of God, the Father.



Antichrist Arrives - Beast from the Sea

John sees Antichrist as a wild vicious monster coming out of the sea summoned by Satan. His description is similar to Satan's, the red dragon. He incorporates all the ferocity, viciousness, swiftness and strength of all the past world empires. He will be unparalleled in human history.

He will be a gifted orator, an intellectual genius, possess great charm and charisma and have immense leadership power. He will make a seven-year covenant with Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation and then break his covenant halfway through and turn against Israel (Dan 9:27).

He will suffer a fatal wound to the head that will be healed. Devoid of hope, people will flock to him like desperate sheep, ready to do whatever he says. The whole world will be amazed, will follow after the beast, and quickly begin to worship him.

The ultimate in blasphemy will occur when he sits in the temple of God to proclaim that he is god. He will make war with the Tribulation saints on the earth and overcome them because they refuse to worship him. The result will be a worldwide slaughter of God's people like has never occurred in all of history (Rev 6:9-11; 7:9-17: 11:7; 17:6; Dan 7:25).

He will use force to begin a massive world war that continues until Christ returns. The war is a rebellion against the universal rule of Antichrist and comes at the very end of the Tribulation period. He will blaspheme God continually. He is the counterfeit of Jesus Christ.

False Prophet Arrives - Beast from the Land

John witnesses the rise of the beast from the earth who has two horns like a lamb and speaks like a dragon. This is the false prophet who will serve as the Antichrist's right-hand man. His mission will be to cause people to worship Antichrist. He will be a unifier of the world's religion and he will then lead the worldwide religion of Antichrist worship. He will be the counterfeit of the Holy Spirit.



He will perform miracles that will be deceitful and deceptive in their purpose. He will command the people to make an image to Antichrist and enable the image to speak. The world will engage in the most shocking, blatant idolatry ever seen. The blasphemous image will probably be set up on the temple ground in Jerusalem (2Thes

2:4) and will be connected with the abomination of desolation (Dan 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Matt 24:15). The death sentence will be decreed for those who refuse to worship the image of Antichrist.



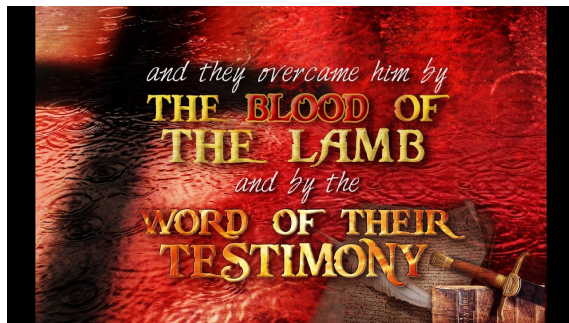
As a counterfeit to God's sealing of the 144,000 Jews, the false prophet marks the unsaved to preserve them from Antichrist's wrath against God's people.

They will receive the mark of the beast or Antichrist on their right hand or forehead. No one, rich or poor, will be exempt from receiving the mark. The number of the mark of the beast is 666, the number of man three times; this is man showing himself that he is god.

No one will be able to buy or sell without it. The penalty for not taking the mark will be death. Antichrist's empire will maintain strict economic control over the world. He will now control religion, miracles, and money.

The Celebration

When Satan is cast from Heaven to the earth, a loud voice begins praise to God. It



appears to be the shout of triumph of the tribulation saints longing for and anticipating their ultimate victory. The heavenly worshipers rejoice that the first step, Satan's defeat and final ejection from Heaven, has already taken place. The salvation, power, kingdom of God and the authority of His Christ has come. The Tribulation saints have overcome Satan because of the blood of the Lamb & word of their testimony.

If you have not accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, we encourage you to do so today while there is still time. You too can be counted in the redeemed and spend eternity with God in Heaven. Please pray the Scripture below:

"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."
(Romans 10:9–10, NASB95)