

The Beast That Rises Out of the Earth

Revelation 13:11-18 – April 25, 2021

Deception and lies are main ingredients in Satan's arsenal of weapons. He's "a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44). He disguises himself as "an angel of light" (2 Cor. 11:14) to deceive this world. For Scripture says,

"If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: ⁴ In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

In like manner, his human and demonic agents

"are also transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" 2 Cor. 11:15.

So, we should not be surprised when we see people using lies and deception as tools to accomplish their goals. It is a trademark of Satan and his ministers.

Jesus also warns us to

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matt. 7:15).

We are told as the latter days approach,

"There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" – Matthew 24:24.

We know this to be true. For false prophets have plagued God's people from the beginning of history. But here we are told they will proliferate even more as the return of Christ approaches. Those false prophets will be energized by Satan's demonic hosts. He will intensify his efforts to deceive the world as he sees his doom approach.

False prophets have historically been linked with political power.

In ancient Egypt we find Jannes and Jambres (two false prophets) assist Pharaoh when confronted by Moses and Aaron (2 Tim. 3:8). Ancient Moab sought the false prophet Balaam in their attempt to destroy Israel (Num. 22-

24). King Ahab and Queen Jezebel used the idolatrous priests of Baal to change policies in northern Israel. The Roman Empire united political and religious powers by demanding its subjects worship the state (personified as the goddess Roma) and the emperor.

In the latter days the Antichrist will join political and religious powers to consolidate his authority. He will use an individual known in Revelation 13:11 as “**another beast**” and in Revelation 20:10 he is called the “**false prophet.**”

Just as the Antichrist is the culmination of all previous antichrists, the False Prophet, will be the culmination of all religious deceivers to precede him [16:13-14].

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and **out of the mouth of the false prophet.** ¹⁴ For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”

He will be Satan’s last and most powerful deceiver the world has ever seen. He will be the “high priest” that will deify the Antichrist. His purpose is to convince the world that Antichrist is god and the only hope for the world’s salvation. It is he and his policies that are highlighted in the latter part of this chapter (Revelation 13:11-18).

Three features are underscored in this passage – First, the false prophet’s character (v. 11); second, is his authority (vs. 12-14), and finally, is his policy (vs. 15-18).

THE FALSE PROPHET’S CHARACTER (v. 11)

“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.”

Three aspects of his character unfold in this verse.

His Origin: “*Coming up out of the earth*” – Rev. 13:11a.

“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth.”

This beast comes up out of the earth. This indicates that this creature is not of heaven but of the earth. There is no mention in Scripture of either his geographic origin or his racial background.

This second beast is similar in nature to the first beast – a dangerous, ravaging power that is just as hostile to God’s people as the first beast. However, the second beast is described as having “two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.” Like the Antichrist, the false prophet will be indwelt by a demon out of the abyss which is pictured here as the flaming depths of the earth.

In the ancient world, the earth was less mysterious and foreboding than the sea. That the False Prophet arises from the earth suggests that he will subtler, gentler, less overpowering, and terrifying than the Antichrist. He will be winsome and persuasive the epitome of the wolves in sheep’s clothing Jesus warned of in Matthew 7:15.

His Appearance: *“and he had two horns like a lamb”* – Rev. 13:11b

The description of the two horns on this second beast reminds us of similar characteristics that were found on the first beast. Remember, the first beast is grotesque and frightening with its 10 horns and seven heads and 10 crowns and seven blasphemous names.

In contrast, this second beast merely has two horns, which are characteristic of a lamb. That indicates he is not going to display the same massive might as the Antichrist. And unlike the Antichrist who will be savage, ferocious, fierce, and deadly with the combined power of a leopard, bear and lion, this False Prophet seems to be as harmless as a lamb.

Nor does he come as a conquering dictator, but on the surface appears as a subtle deceiver, with meekness and gentleness, but not without great authority. (MacArthur, Revelation 12-22, pg. 58.)

This False Prophet occupies a secondary role in supporting the activities of the first beast.

His Speech: *“and he spake as a dragon”* – Rev. 13:11c.

The False Prophet is the religious spokesman in the great tribulation period who will profess to convey supernaturally inspired messages to mankind. However, his messages are **not** from God but from Satan. Jesus warned of

false Christ's and false prophets who will perform mighty signs and wonders [Matt. 24:24].

So, despite his deceptively mild appearance, this False Prophet is no less a child of hell than the Antichrist. This is evident because he speaks as a dragon, a strange voice indeed for lame. The False Prophet, like the Antichrist, will be the dragon's (Satan's), mouthpiece, speaking his word.

However, unlike the Antichrist who speaks blasphemous words against our LORD, he will speak winsome, deceiving words of praise about the Antichrist, luring the world to worship that vile, Satanic dictator.

THE FALSE PROPHET'S CHARACTER (v. 13)

THE FALSE PROPHET'S AUTHORITY (vs. 12-14)

“And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, ¹⁴ And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which **he had power to do in the sight of the beast**; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.”

The false prophet will exercise the same kind of demonic power and authority as the Antichrist since both are empowered by the same source. Furthermore, another interesting note is that it says, “he (*the False Prophet*) had power to do (*these miracles*) in the sight of the beast (*the Antichrist*)” - Rev. 13:14.

Since both have this power, it seems that the Antichrist will delegate this authority to him. The False Prophet's mission will be to use all the means available to him to cause the earth and all those who dwell in it to worship the first beast. He will lead the worldwide cult of antichrist worship.

His First “Miracle”

One of the first miracles he will perform will be to bring about the apparent healing of the first beast. This supposed resurrection from the dead will be in attempt to imitate Christ resurrection.

In my opinion, it is more likely that the Antichrist's death will be staged and hence his resurrection will be a ruse. However, in either case, the world will

accept the Antichrist's resurrection as genuine. This will enhance the Antichrist's prestige and that of the False Prophet.

A Series of Other Miracles:

“And **he doeth great wonders** (*signs*), so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, ¹⁴ And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles” – Rev. 13:13-14.

The Greek word for wonders is **σημειον** (*semeion*) meaning, “miracles” or “signs.” Many believe he will attempt to mimic the signs performed by Jesus Christ, but also those of the two witnesses.

These satanic wonders will be extremely persuasive, for those on earth. It seems the False Prophet will be imitating the two witnesses that were sent by God, for he makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth. And in fact, it seems he will repeatedly perform this supernatural act in the presence of men to impress them with his power.

Them that dwell on the earth

Them that dwell on the earth is a technical phrase **used eight times** throughout the book of Revelation. It is a reference to those who have rejected Christ [Rev. 3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8, 12; 17:2, 8].

Because believers know the truth and are protected by their God, they will recognize the False Prophet's teachings as lies and will not be swayed because of the signs which was given to him to perform in the presence of the beast.

The unbelieving world will be deceived on two accounts. First, because of the Satan's work through the False Prophet's teaching and deceptive works. Second, God will send upon them a deluding influence.

“And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. And for this cause, **God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:** ¹² That they all might be damned who believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” - 2 Thess. 2:10.

He will make an image:

As the power of the Antichrist and the persuasiveness of the False Prophet grow, Satan will escalate the false world religion of anti-christian worship. Humanity will eventually be so completely under the influence of the False Prophet that the people will obey his command to make an image to the beast. Like king Nebuchadnezzar did before him, but this time on a global scale, the Antichrist, aided by the False Prophet, will set up a statue on the temple grounds in Jerusalem. This will be connected with the abomination of desolation and will be a tribute to the awesome power of the Antichrist, “which had the wound by a sword, and did live (Rev.13:14).

Breath to the Image:

In a display of his power to deceive the False Prophet will give *breath* to the image of the beast so that the image of the beast would even speak.

An interesting Greek word is used in verse 15 for “life.” The term used in this passage is **πνεῦμα pneuma**. It is the word for “*breath*” and not the normal word for life which is “*zoe*” or “*bios*.”

In other words, the False Prophet will give the image the appearance of being alive. Another thought regarding this “breath.” When God created man, He breathed in them “the breath of life” (Gen. 2:7) making man into His image. Though Satan does not have power to create a race after his likeness, he apparently has the power to give breath to this image. This image is an expression of his likeness.

THE FALSE PROPHET’S CHARACTER (v. 13)

THE FALSE PROPHET’S AUTHORITY (vs. 12-14)

THE FALSE PROPHET’S POLICY (vs. 15-18)

“And he had power to give **life** unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

His Policy:

His policy, or his mission will be to cause the world to worship Satan and the Antichrist. At this point in his appearance, he will drop the façade of gentleness and cause all those who do not worship the beast to be killed.

This is very similar to the case of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3:6) where he decreed those who refused to worship his image to be put to death. This decreed death sentence will affect all true believers in Christ. However, not all will be killed, some survive when Christ returns.

His Plan – The Mark:

“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: ¹⁷ And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name” – Rev. 13:16.

The Mark signified that the person bearing it was a worshiper and loyal follower of the Antichrist. In much the same way, the Roman Emperors require their subjects to prove their loyalty by offering sacrifices to Caesar. Those who refused, like those who will refuse to take the Antichrist’s mark will be subject to execution.

No **exceptions** are made for all classes of people are included – the small and the great refer to status, the rich and the poor refer to possessions, and the free and the bond refer to their state in society. Without this mark on their forehead or right hand, they will neither be able to buy or sell.

Some have contrasted this mark of the beast as an imitation of the protective seal provided for the 144,000 servants of God on their foreheads [Rev. 7:3]. This mark is only another device to force all people to worship the beast. Unless a person can display one of the three brands – the mark, the name of the beast, or the number of his name, he or she will face deprivation and death.

Those who receive the mark of the beast will seal their own eternal destiny [Rev. 14:9-10] for their names will **not** be found in the book of life [Rev. 13:8].

The number of the beast:

“Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* Six hundred threescore *and six*” – Rev. 13:18.

Special attention is given to this last verse of this prophetic chapter [**Rev. 13:18**]. God is appealing to his followers to seek wisdom for they will be able to determine the identity of the beast. Once the tribulation period begins, the

identity of the Antichrist will not be a mystery for he will be the one to sign the seven-year peace treaty with Israel.

There is endless speculation concerning the number 666. Some Bible scholars believe that the Antichrist's name [given numerical value by the letters in his name] will add up to the sum of 666.

Letters in Hebrew, Latin and Greek all have numerical equivalents. J. B. Smith suggests that the six Roman numerals [I, V, X, L, C, D.] add up to 666 which alludes to the possibility of a Roman being the Antichrist. Others have suggested that the three sixes [666] could represent the unholy trinity – the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet.

Although there is much speculation about this number, we do know the number 6 is the number of “man” throughout the Scriptures. **John Walvoord** gives a good explanation of this. Whatever is the correct interpretation, it is evident that God wants His people to be forewarned against this great deceiver and God has graciously granted this clue whereby we can recognize this man of sin.

Two Evil Characters:

Chapter 13 of Revelation is the only prophetic chapter in Scripture that presents in detail the two evil characters and their wicked activities at the end of the age. This seven-year tribulation period will be characterized by a one-world government and a one-world religion that will exalt Satan. Many believers will be martyred for the cause of Christ while many others will be deceived to follow the beast.

The destiny of the False Prophet will be the **same** as the Antichrist for they will be cast alive into the lake of fire [Rev. 19:20]. Those who have trusted Satan throughout the ages, along with those who follow the Beast and the False Prophet during the tribulation period will stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgment [Rev. 10:11-15].

It is here the unbelievers will be judged, sentenced, and cast into the lake of fire forever with the unholy trinity, Satan's angels, and his ungodly cohorts.

This sobering chapter of the two Satanic characters yet to come stand as a warning to the unbelieving world that they face a horrible time of deception, tribulation, and damnation without Christ. It will be a time of absolute rule

by Satan and his cohorts, bringing unleashed wickedness never seen before on the face of the earth.

To the believers:

It is always a challenge to live godly, watchful lives for Jesus Christ and to give the Gospel to a lost and dying world that is headed for destruction.

Our present-day world is attempting to unify itself into a one-world government and into a one-world religion. Knowingly or unknowingly, governmental leaders, the media, financial institutes, along with commerce, educational establishments, and religious organizations, are setting the stage for this end time scenario.

May the Lord help us all to be *faithful* in these last days.