

Satan and His Angels Cast Down from Heaven

And it [second beast] was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. (Revelation 13:15)
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Satan, the angel of light, being cast down to earth from Heaven with a third of the angels that followed him. (Rev. 12:9)

So, I presented the idea that in the second half of the 70th week of Daniel, idols on earth will be filled with the cast down angels that belong to “Team Satan”. Here I make a case for that proclamation.

There is no one specific scripture that states this concept as there are many concepts in eschatology that you cannot find explicitly spelled out in a single verse. If eschatology was that easy, everyone would grasp it.. But it only rewards those who wade deep into the waters of careful study of the entirety of God’s Word.

I wish I could give you a one verse answer that would spell it out in black and white, but that’s not how it works. So, bear with me as I take you through the journey of how this conclusion has come to fruition.

Because a number of scriptures declare certain truths, my conclusion came from these scriptures, as there are no specific scriptures that state what I had proclaimed. Here’s how I got there or came to my conclusion. Maybe you agree, maybe you think it’s a stretch. I’ll leave that for you to decide. This conclusion is from 30 years ago, and Greg threw out cell phones as a potential candidate, which caused me to rethink, since this technology did not exist 30 years ago in the form that it does today. So, kudos to Greg for throwing that out there.

So, roll up your sleeves and take this journey through scripture and conclusions with me.

Matthew 12:43-45 tells us that when an unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that **person** is worse than the first. So also, will it be with this evil generation."

It's not a hard stretch to conclude that demons seek to occupy a "space" in the existence of their time on earth. When Jesus cast out the legion of demons in Gad, they requested that Jesus not send them to the abyss, but to allow them to possess the pigs nearby. Jesus cast out many demons from human beings during his ministry.

This passage in Matthew Chapter 8 sheds considerable light on the power and limitations of demons who manifest themselves on earth.

Matthew 8:28-32 And when He [Jesus] had come to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were demon possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs; they were so exceedingly violent that no one could pass by that road. And behold, they cried out, saying, 'What do we have to do with You, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?' Now there was at a distance from them a herd of many swine feeding. And the demons began to entreat Him, saying, "If You are going to cast us out, send us into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Begone!" And they came out and went into the swine.

This familiar passage reveals several important truths about the nature and operation of demons that will give us better understanding concerning the end-times demon-indwelt idols or Images.

First, demons require some physical object, animate or inanimate, through which to operate.

Second, the demons must have permission to indwell the object, unable to determine their own destiny. In the Gadarene instance, the multitude of demons originally inhabited two men. When the demons realized Jesus was about to cast them out of the men, they pleaded with Him for permission to enter a nearby herd of swine so they would have some place to reside. Because the demons indwelt animate objects, they had movement. In the end times, however, the demons will indwell inanimate objects and therefore will have no movement on their own. In addition, the demons will be assigned to their respective abodes by the second beast (**Rev. 13:15**)

Third, we learn that the demons spoke through the people they indwelt. To my knowledge, there is no instance in Scripture of demons speaking apart from the physical object they were indwelling. During the great persecution at the hands of Antichrist, Satan's demonic monitors will speak through the images they indwell.

Fourth, although demons are restricted to the objects they indwell, they are able to create great havoc both within and through those objects. The demons who indwelt the two men in the country of the Gadarenes, took over those men's minds and gave their bodies superhuman strength (see **Mark 5:3, 4**), in Matthew's account the demons are described as being "exceedingly violent" (**Matthew 8:28**), but these demons possessed animate objects.

For clarity sake, the dragon is Satan and the beast is the anti-Christ. There is also a second beast introduced in Revelation 13:11.

Revelation 12:7-12

“Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ‘Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! **But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!**”

This is the most explicit account of a battle led by the archangel Michael against the dragon (identified clearly as Satan), resulting in him and his angels (demons/fallen angels) being cast out of heaven to the earth. The passage has a dual aspect in many interpretations: it alludes to the original rebellion and fall while also pointing forward to end-times events, where Satan's final expulsion intensifies his activity on earth.

SATAN EMPOWERS ANTICHRIST

Revelation 13:4-7

And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?”

And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ... (ESV)

Take note... 42 months is 3½ years, the second half of the 70th week of Daniel. What Jesus called the Great Tribulation and what Revelation 12:12 calls Satan's wrath.

Commenting on Revelation 13:4-7

“they [**the unbelieving world**] worshiped the dragon [**Satan**] because he gave his authority to the beast [**Antichrist**], and they worshiped the beast saying ‘Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?’ And there was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months [**3½ years**] was given to him.

And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. And it was given to make war with the saints [**that would be us Christians**] and to overcome them; [**sucks to be us in that moment**] and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him”.

In a parallel passage, Daniel goes on to say that Antichrist....

“will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times and half a time”. (**Daniel 7:25; cf. 12:7**)

The exact meaning of Antichrist’s intent to alter times and law is not clear. It might well mean that he will attempt to completely revise the modern calendar, eliminating all Jewish and Christian observances (such as Passover, Christmas, and Easter), or it might mean that he will attempt to overturn commonly accepted codes of ethics and morals that have prevailed throughout history in most societies. In any case, his supreme purpose will be to do everything within his power “against the Most High and the saints.”

Scriptures teach that the whole world will worship the beast (Antichrist) and his image, and that those who don’t, will be sought out and killed. This fact should be a matter of grave concern to every Christian. Revelation 13 states explicitly that the power of the beast will extend over “the whole earth” (v. 3), “over every tribe and people and tongue and nation” (v. 7), and over “those who dwell on the earth” (v. 14; cf. vv. 13, 16) and that all who do not worship the beast or his image will be killed (v. 15). For this reason, as the true bond-servants of Christ, we need to know the events that will be initiated at the midpoint of Daniel’s 70th week, being prepared in advance for the terrible persecution that is soon to follow.

ANTICHRIST’S CONTROL OF THE EARTH

“But” you may think, “all the real trouble happens in and around Israel. How can he control those of us living thousands of miles away?” In other words, how will Antichrist be able to extend his satanic power and demands for allegiance, from his blasphemous throne in Jerusalem to the far corners of the earth? What will this mean for Christians living in America or Europe or other places in the world not referred to or even hinted at in Scripture? We know that even Satan, despite his pervasive powers, is not omnipresent; likewise, his minion Antichrist, even with his satanically bestowed supernatural powers, will be a mere human being. How then will Antichrist keep those in the remote regions of the world, as well as in the Middle East and the rest of the world, under his satanic power?

While studying a seemingly contradictory prophetic issue, I finally found the common denominator that solved the dilemma perfectly. To my great surprise, the solution not only harmonized the passages over which I was struggling with, but it also answered the question regarding Antichrist’s ability to control the whole earth, including the most remote regions of the world.

The discovery was so unexpected and frightening that I immediately consulted several theologians to see if my conclusions had exegetical integrity. When they carefully studied the texts in their original language, and evaluated my reasoning, they confirmed that the conclusions were exegetically sound and that the consequences were indeed terrifying—for the entire world, not just for those localized areas occupied by Antichrist and his armies as specifically identified in end-time prophecy.

The initial prophetic contradiction I was trying to resolve was this: if the whole world worships Antichrist after the midpoint of the 70th week, why would people be worshipping their own demons and idols at the same time? God’s Word teaches that when Antichrist appears, “the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast [Antichrist]” (**Rev. 13:3**). Later we learn that a second beast (the enforcer for Antichrist) “makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast [Antichrist], whose fatal wound was healed” (**Rev. 13:12**).

While the Word of God teaches that Antichrist will receive the world's worship during these last days, the Scriptures also teach that mankind will be worshiping demons and idols of their own making. For example, when a third of mankind is killed during the sixth trumpet judgment of the Day of the Lord, at the very same time Antichrist is supposedly receiving the world's worship. John reports that "the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, **which can neither see nor hear nor walk**" (**Rev. 9:20**, emphasis added).

Isaiah refers to this same idol worship during the same period of time, during the reign of Antichrist just prior to the Day of the Lord:

For the Lord of hosts will have a day of reckoning [the Day of the Lord], against everyone who is proud and lofty, and against everyone who is lifted up, that he may be abased . . . and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day. But the idols will completely vanish. And men will go into caves of the rocks, and into holes of the ground before the terror of the Lord, and before the splendor of His majesty, when He arises to make the earth tremble. In that day men will cast away to the moles and the bats their idols of silver and their idols of gold, which they made for themselves to worship. (**Isa. 2:12, 17–20**, emphasis added)

In other words, when the world is supposedly worshiping only Antichrist prior to the time the elect of God are raptured and Christ begins His wrath against the wicked who remain, Scripture tells us that the world is also worshiping demons and idols. How can this seeming contradiction be resolved? How can the world both give worship to the beast (Antichrist) and be worshiping demons and the idols they have made with their own hands, at the same time, especially in light of the consequences of worshipping any one or anything other than Antichrist?

Because God's Word is inerrant and therefore consistent in every detail, there is always a biblical explanation that will reconcile any seeming contradictions or inconsistencies if one looks long enough and hard enough. The biblical answer to the dilemma I had been working through, though frightening, is rather simple.

John informs us that the second beast (**Rev. 13:11**), the enforcer for the first beast (Antichrist), "makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast [Antichrist], whose fatal wound was healed. And he [the second beast] 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 which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast" (**vv. 12, 14**).

But an immeasurably more frightening revelation immediately follows. The second beast then tells "those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast [Antichrist] who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. **And [then] there was given to him [the second beast] to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast might even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed**" (**Rev. 13:14, 15**).

The most common interpretation of this passage is that all the inhabitants on earth are commanded to make a single image of the beast. But since the Greek word for "image" can be either a singular or a collective singular noun, it is more likely that each person is commanded to make his or her own individual image and that everyone will have a personal image or images, i.e. an idol, of the beast. Suddenly what seems at first to be a contradiction became, instead, a confirmation of the incredible accuracy of Scripture.

Follow with me carefully. It is not that difficult to understand. In fact, someday may save your life! Two words, translated “image” and “breath” in our critical passage, need to be examined carefully. The Greek term, *eikon*, translated “image” can be rendered just as appropriately as “statue,” as it is the same Greek word from which the English word “icon” is derived. **These images, then, that the second beast commands the people of the earth to make in the image of Antichrist, will be idols, statues, icons of the great world ruler.** We do not know exactly what these images will be or look like, but a wide variety of possibilities would be consistent with the Scriptures.

From the passages quoted earlier, we do know that these are images people can and will make themselves, with their own hands, and that they will be made out of a variety of materials (gold, silver, bronze, stone, wood. **Rev. 9:20; cf. Isa. 2:20**). **Whatever the form, these “images” will proliferate to the ends of the earth and will be in the personal possession of the vast majority of people everywhere,** made as an appropriate substitute for the specific purpose of worshiping Antichrist. **[Greg! Your suggestion of the cell phone!!!]**

These images, then, will be made under the deceptive influence of the second beast, when “he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast” (**Rev. 13:12**), by performing “great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men” (v. 13). “He deceives those who dwell on the earth . . . telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast” (v. 14).

(Rev 13:15) The second word, “breath,” however, should cause every man, woman, and child alive—in particular, those who refuse to worship “the beast or his image”—tremendous concern, and even greater fear when one understands the full meaning and implications of the Greek term *pneuma* underlying this word. The second beast was given power “to give breath to the image of the beast [Antichrist].”

The Greek term here rendered “breath” is rarely translated that way, but is usually rendered as “spirit” (as in “Holy Spirit” or in “evil spirit”) and sometimes as “life” (as in the KJV of **Rev. 13:15**).

The meaning of this passage, then, is that after the world is commanded to build its own “images” or idols of Antichrist, some form of spirit or life will be put within these “images,” so “that the image of the beast might even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed” (**Rev. 13:15**)! Indeed, these idols will be different from all the idols the world has previously known. **[maybe an app on your phone?]**

The prophet Habakkuk speaks directly to the uniqueness of these end-time idols by his comparison to what idols were like before these last days: “Woe to him who says to a piece of wood, ‘Awake!’ To a dumb stone, ‘Arise!’ That is your teacher? Behold, it [the idol] is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all inside it” (**Habakkuk 2:19**, emphasis added). **[This almost fits a cell phone to a tee. All cell phones have gold and silver in them. YIKES!]**

In the last days, the worship of “the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood” spoken of in **Revelation 9:20** is specifically said to involve the worship of demons, which are of course spirit beings. In other words, the idols of **9:20** and the images of **13:14, 15** will be indwelt by Satan’s demons, to form a worldwide monitoring system to enforce the worship of Antichrist (whose likeness the images will bear), and to destroy any human being who refuses to comply with that worship.

Fortunately, those demonic images, despite their fearsome powers, will be blind, deaf, and immobile—unable to see, hear, or walk (Rev. 9:20). The idols in themselves are nothing more than immaterial creations of mankind’s own making. It will be the demons, the evil spirits, that give these inanimate objects their “life.” And although the demons are limited to these inanimate objects, **these demons, unlike the idols they indwell, can see and hear, even though their movement is restricted to the objects they indwell.**

For this reason, the passage makes no reference to the idols' inability to speak. The reason is clear. They will be able to talk once the false prophet of Antichrist gives "breath [spirit, life] to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast might even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed" (Rev. 13:15).

Each demon's movement being limited by the inanimate object it indwells would seem to allow the possibility that true Christians, as well as others who refuse to bow down to these images, will have some chance to avoid detection and destruction. But if they do come into the presence of those images, the demons will know it, and those persons will be killed for their failure to worship the images. **[YIKES AGAIN!!!]**

FINAL THOUGHTS

Finally, in my opinion of the killing of those who are unwilling to worship these demon-possessed idols, will be done at the hands of those who have chosen to follow the Antichrist, becoming murderers in the process.

Revelation 9:20 refers to those who, during the rule of Antichrist, "worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk"; and the following verse goes on to describe these demonic worshipers as those who "did not repent of their murders. . . ."

[Does this not sound like the youth of today with their faces glued to their phones?]

In other words, the idols are deaf and dumb. The evil spirits that indwell them are not, but are limited to the idols they possess and thus must instruct the followers of Antichrist to kill those who refuse to comply. During the time of Antichrist's rule, the demons controlling the inanimate images of Antichrist can only "cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed" (**Rev. 13:15**).

How then will these inanimate images suddenly be indwelt and empowered by demonic spirits? **The first part of the answer** is found in a careful reading of **Revelation 13:15**. This passage seems to indicate that the "image"—or more correctly the "images," since this is a collective singular noun—will not initially be empowered when they are made by individuals around the world. They only come to "life" later, when the "second beast" (Antichrist's deputy) gives a "spirit" to these images. Therefore, people will initially fashion their individual images without even knowing the diabolical purpose for which they will soon be used.

The second part of the answer is found in **Revelation 12:9**. "And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."

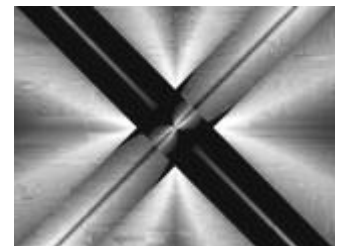
This event occurs at the midpoint of the seventieth week—just before Antichrist (the first beast) demands the world's worship, and just before "the second beast" deceives mankind throughout the world into worshipping the beast and making an image of him for their own personal use.

In these two passages the people will make their images during the euphoria of the world's initial amazement and worship of Antichrist (**Rev. 13:3**). The images will then, without the world's knowledge or understanding, be suddenly indwelt by the horde of Satan's fallen angels and demonic spirits that will have been cast down to earth with Satan just prior to that time. By that supernatural and pervasive scheme, Antichrist will exercise universal control over all unbelievers, even those living in the most remote regions of the earth.

As an aside, images, idols, and statues abound in every nation of the world—even in America. Ask yourself what would happen if all of these statues, images, or whatever, [cell phones] no matter how pious our purpose may have been for having them initially, were suddenly demon-possessed, with the power to “*cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain*” (Rev. 13:15) on the spot. The world, to say nothing of America, would be in the absolute vise-grip of the one who controlled the demons. In the last days it will be Satan who has the control of these demons, the same Satan “*who has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time*” (Rev. 12:12).

As Christians, therefore, it will be absolutely essential that we do not go near these images or enter any place where they are present—so that we don’t give them an opportunity to “speak” and identify us, or to “*cause [us who] do not worship the image of the beast to be killed*” (Rev. 13:15).

*A number of excerpts taken directly from Robert Van Kampen’s work
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Unless the Lord builds the house...

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