

BOOK OF REVELATION

Part 21 – Third Parenthesis: The Beast, The False Prophet, and the Mark of the Beast – Part 2: Chapter 13

I. INTRODUCTION

REVIEW: We are still at the middle of the Tribulation. So far in the Tribulation we have witnessed the Seal judgments in Chapter 6, the first parenthetical passage where the 144,000 witnesses are sealed in Chapter 7, and the trumpet judgments in Chapters 8 and 9. The second parenthetical passage began in Chapter 10 and goes through Chapter 11 verse 14. Chapter 10 shows us where the Lord Jesus Christ makes an appearance on earth with a message from God and with a little book for the Apostle John to consume and with that consumption teaches the Apostle John a lesson as well. Chapter 11 dealt with the death of the two witnesses and their subsequent resurrection and ascension back into heaven, the seventh and final trumpet sounding. Chapter 12 dealt with the woman, the nation of Israel, giving birth to the man child, the Lord Jesus Christ and his ascension into heaven, the war in heaven between God and Satan and Satan's defeat and being cast down to the earth. Then we saw lastly, Satan going after the nation of Israel and the Tribulation Saints helping to protect her from persecution and destruction.

REVIEW OF THE CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE TRIBULATION PERIOD: The middle of the tribulation time period commences with the following sequence of events most likely in the following sequence:

- (1) After trumpet judgment number six, the war in heaven (Chapter 12), and the subsequent loss of the war by Satan and demonic forces and expulsion out of heaven, which we will study in this lesson.
- (2) After Satan arrives back on earth, he resurrects the body of the Antichrist and indwells it which we will study in Chapter 13.
- (3) Then the resurrected Antichrist, animated by Satan, overcomes and kills the two witnesses and the seventh trumpet judgment following their ascension back into heaven. The end of their ministry is the middle of the tribulation.
- (4) Then the Antichrist will break the treaty with Israel and defiles the rebuilt Jewish temple by entering it and sets up an image of himself and demands worship. This is Abomination Of Desolation spoken of in Daniel 9 and Matthew 24.
- (5) The False Prophet comes on the scene, gives life unto the image of the Beast, and leads the world in worship of the Beast. We will study this in the latter half of Chapter 13.
- (6) Then the Antichrist will persecute and kill many of the Jewish people. We will study this in Chapter 12.
- (7) Institution of the Mark Of The Beast which without no one on earth can buy or sell. We will study this at the end of Chapter 13.

II. EXEGESIS - The Beast and False Prophet and the Mark of the Beast

B. VERSES 3-10: THE BEAST (ANTICHRIST) EXPLAINED

VERSE 3: "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast."

Remember the original description given in verse 1, of the beast having seven heads. The seven heads will be described in further in Revelation 17:7-11. The seventh head is a reference to the Antichrist first unveiled in Revelation 6, as the rider on a white horse, conquering with a bow and no arrows, describing how he conquered most of the known world without violence. This seventh beast, the Antichrist, is assassinated by a sword wound to the head. This takes place right at the middle of the Tribulation. A wound to the head is used throughout scripture to refer to death. Verse 14, later in this chapter tells us that it was a wound from a sword. A stab wound to the head usually results in death.

The expression "deadly head wound was healed" indicates that he died and appeared to rise from the dead. Since only God can bring the dead back to life, Satan resurrects the body of the Antichrist and indwells it and makes it appear that he has arisen from the dead, mocking the true resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. As a result, the world will wonder after all aspects of the Antichrist. Since they rejected God, they will be deceived and are willing to be deceived.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-11 "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: (9) Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, (10) And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (11) And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

CONCURRENT EVENT: Killing of the Two Witnesses, their resurrection and ascension back into Heaven

Shortly after the resurrection of Antichrist, he will be permitted to kill the Two Witnesses that were sent by God as their time of ministry of 1260 days has come to an end. We studied this in detail in Revelation 11. As a man he would not have had the power to harm or kill them. But a fallen angel, Satan in the form of the Antichrist, could overcome them. *Revelation 11:3,7,11 "(3) And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. (7) And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. (11) And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. (12) And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.*

CONCURRENT EVENT: Fleeing of the nation of Israel from their land

During this time in these verses will the Antichrist will go after the nation of Israel and God will protect many of them from in a place of refuge. We studied this in detail in Revelation 12:

Revelation 12:14 "And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

CONCURRENT EVENT: Destruction of the Great Whore

During this time, the Ten Kingdoms under the control of the Antichrist, will finally do away with the One World Superchurch. The Antichrist after his resurrection, being he is animated by Satan, will want the worship of the world. This "church" will represent an opposition to his power and stealing the worship that he feels rightfully belongs to him. Also it has been a drain on the resources of his kingdom during the first 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation as well. Its time is up and the kingdom of the Antichrist, does away with her and absorbs all of her assets, as she was very wealthy. We will study the Great Whore in detail in Revelation 17.

Revelation 17:16-17 "(16) And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. (17) For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

VERSE 4: "And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?"

During the time period covered by this verse, the Antichrist has killed the two witnesses and then they were resurrected from the dead by God and ascended back into Heaven. Then the seventh trumpet judgment had been pronounced, with the death of 7000 and one-tenth of Jerusalem destroyed. It seems that the world however did not pay much attention to this seemly only defeat of Antichrist. Notice that they believe he is invincible and no one else is like him. They will also worship the Antichrist at this point. You do not see in the book of the Revelation or other prophecies where Antichrist is worshipped until this time. During this time the Abomination Of Desolation will occur that we will study later in the chapter when we study the False Prophet.

VERSE 5: "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months."

He will be allowed to continue his kingdom for 3 1/2 years which equals 42 months. Notice especially the expression here "a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies" The word "blasphemies" carries the plural meaning of the word "blasphemy" which carries the meaning of "villafying or railing". The Antichrist will make God out to be the villian, for all the judgments He was ordained to come upon the earth.

He will rail upon God and say all manner of lies and unjust statements against God during this time and will have no doubt a receptive audience.

The vision of Daniel 7 also tells us that this portion of his rule will be 3 1/2 years. Remember that the expression "until a time and times and the dividing of time" carries the same meaning as the similar expressions in Revelation 12:14 and Daniel 7:24. Remember from our previous study in Chapter 12, the expression "time" is a reference to one year. Time is one year, times is two years and the dividing of time is 1/2 of a year. The total amount of time would be 3 1/2 years. Fourty two months is also equal to 3 1/2 years as well.

Daniel 7:25 "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

VERSE 6: "And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven."

Another difference between the Antichrist of the first 3 1/2 years of the tribulation and the last 3 1/2 years. He will blaspheme the one true God of Heaven and His Holy Name. Notice he will also blaspheme the tabernacle of God in Heaven and the saints of all the ages: Old Testament, Church Age, and Tribulation Saints who has died up to this point. We are angry when we hear people take God's name in vain but the Antichrist here will denigrate the name and people of God unlike at any other time since the creation.

Daniel 11:36-37 "(36) And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, (37) Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

VERSE 7: "And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."

The Antichrist will be given permission to make war with the Tribulation saints. In the vision that Daniel had of the four beasts in Daniel 7, the messenger that interpreted the vision and dream, said he would "wear out the saints". The Tribulation saints will be pushed to the point that they will be just exhausted and cannot go any further. This is one reason the scripture tells us that those days will be shortened.

Daniel 7:25 "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High,

He will have power over the whole world. He will have opposition but he will defeat all opposition to him in the time allotted to him to rule:

Daniel 11:40-44 "(40) And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. (41) He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. (42) He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. (43) But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. (44) But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.

During this time the Antichrist will also be at war simultaneously with the Nation of Israel as well:

Revelation 12:17 "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The Antichrist will have victory, but not total and complete victory. He will rule the world but not have complete control of it. He will not be able to wipe out all the Tribulation Saints and the remnant of the Nation of Israel. Many of them will die but not all of them. God still has the final say and they will repopulate the earth in the Millennial Kingdom, all according to God's eternal plan.

VERSE 8: "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Other than the Tribulation Saints and the remnant of the Nation of Israel, all the rest of the people on earth will worship the Satan animated and indwelt Antichrist. The Tribulation Saint at this time will be true to God's Word and not worship a false god. Many of the remnant of the Nation of Israel, will have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Messiah and His Salvation and will be in the "same boat" with the Tribulation Saint.

VERSE 9-10: "(9) If any man have an ear, let him hear. (10) He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."

Only the redeemed have ears to hear. The truth being imparted here is that Satan, who is animating Antichrist, will lead the world in captivity and kill many. But one day Satan will soon suffer the fate of being in captivity for 1000 years and then eternity in the Lake of Fire. He has lived by the sword and must die by the sword. Remember death is "separation". He must suffer separation from God in torment for all eternity for the actions he has taken since his creation. The saints know of his end from scripture and know God will keep his promises. They are waiting on God's perfect timing and have faith that it will come.

C. VERSES 11-15: THE FALSE PROPHET

VERSE 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."

Now we see the arising of another beast, not the same as the first. Notice he does not arise out of the sea but the earth. The word "earth" carries the meaning of a region or a part of solid ground. The sea is turbulent and moving but the earth is settled and firm. The first beast, the Antichrist, arises out of the sea, after the rapture and as fulfillment of the opening of the First Seal, from the turbulent and unsettled people that are left on earth. This beast arises out of the earth, representing an earth somewhat more settled with so many following the lies of the Antichrist. This is the first mention in the book of the Revelation of the False Prophet. He is referred to by his name in three different verses later in the book of the Revelation.

Revelation 19:20: "The beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."

Notice the description of this beast. He has the appearance of the lamb but his voice is like a dragon. Remember Chapter 12 told us the dragon was Satan. He also speaks like a dragon. This beast will speak the words that Satan gives him to speak. This is the continued attempt of Satan to copy the Holy Trinity of God. Satan imitating the place of God the Father, the Antichrist imitating the place of the God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Now we have the False Prophet imitating the place of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead. However, unlike the true Godhead, all of these "persons" do not share the attributes of God. They cannot be omnipresent, omniscient, or omnipotent. Satan is an imitator and the father of all lies.

VERSE 12: "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."

The False Prophet will "exercise" or show the power of the Antichrist. Remember Satan has resurrected the dead body of the Antichrist, so he will get his power from Satan. He will lead the world in worship of the Antichrist. Notice that the reference to "earth and them that dwell therein". During this time it the majority of the inhabitants of the earth and even the infrastructure of the earth will be forced to worship Satan in the person of the Antichrist, either by deception or coercion. Remember 2 Thessalonians tells us that they will be sent strong delusion

2 Thessalonians 2:8-11: "(8) And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: (9) Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, (10) And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (11) And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

Satan has desired the worship of man since the creation and will finally think he has achieved his goal. The only exception to this worship will be the Tribulation Saints and the remnant of the Nation Of Israel who have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Messiah and Saviour.

*VERSE 13: "And he doeth great wonders,
so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,*

Now we see some of the power of the False Prophet manifest. He will even imitate the power of God that was displayed in the book of 1 Kings 17. This False Prophet will no doubt be able to perform what seems like miracles. He will very possibly have the power to heal disease for which there is not a known cure. He may even be able to control the weather and natural phenomena to a great extent. Having these powers would be considered a great wonder.

*VERSE 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 bring about a massive deception of the population of the earth because of the power that he has. He will lead the world to create an image that looks exactly like the Antichrist. We also see here the method by which the Antichrist as a man dies: a sword wound. There is no reason given in the context of the passage that would lead anyone to conclusion that is anything but a literal sword. He dies by a sword wound. However we are not certain as to where the wound took place. The heads of the beast in verses 1-3 is a reference to the kingdoms that preceded the kingdom of the Antichrist and the kingdoms that preceded it. So the heads are not a literal head but a figurative reference based upon the context of the passage. That is why verse 14 is worded the way it is. It refers to his sword wound to the beast as a person as a man and not the image that described him in verses 1-3.

*VERSE 15: "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."*

The False Prophet will make the image of the Antichrist to come alive or seem to come alive. This is the first reference in the book of the Revelation to the Image Of The Beast. Some have speculated that the image of the beast could be a biological clone or even an android with artificial intelligence, simulating sentience. Only God knows for sure. What we do know from the scripture is that this image will come alive and be able to speak.

Also the False Prophet will lead the world to worship the Image Of The Beast. Those who do not worship this image will be executed. The time for the final spiritual decision is about to occur as we will see in the following verses.

This event in scripture is referred to as the Abomination of Desolation in Daniel 9 and again in Matthew 24 by the Lord Jesus Christ. This is where the Antichrist will break the treaty with the nation of Israel, enter the Jewish temple and have the Image Of The Beast setup there in the Jewish temple and demand worship for himself and his image.

It is during this time that we will also overcome the Two Witnesses and kill them and then three days later they will be resurrected and ascend back into Heaven, followed by the seventh trumpet judgment.

***** DANIEL 9: THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION *****

Now it is time to pause for another brief study of another event in scripture: The Abomination Of Desolation. It is referred to initially in Daniel 9 but the Lord Jesus makes reference to it in Matthew 24.

In Daniel 9, we see the the prophet Daniel after understanding from reading the prophecies in Jeremiah that the punishment of Israel would be 70 years, confesses the sins of the nation of Israel and ask God to forgive their sins in verses 1-19. The angel Gabriel appears to him in verses 20-21 and tells Daniel that he was commanded at the beginning of his prayer to God that he commanded to bring him the answer to his prayer and that he going to reveal to him how long it would be for the end of iniquity and the full restoration of the Nation of Israel would be. We studied this previously in Chapter 6.

Daniel 9:24-27 “(24) Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. (25) Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. (26) And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. (27) And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

The word “weeks” in verse 24, carries the meaning in the original language a period of seven years. The word “covenant” in verse 27 carries the meaning of a “compact” or “treaty”. We see here the passage in the book of Daniel concerning the 70 weeks, which is representative of a period of 490 years. This period is broken down in the scripture here as follows:

- **Seven weeks (49 years):** The proclamation to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem to the finishing of the wall of Jerusalem.
- **Sixty two weeks (434 years):** The finishing of the wall of Jerusalem, including the rebuilding of the city, to the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **One week (7 years):** This commences with the covenant, or treaty, that the Anti-Christ will make with Israel. This is obvious because the returned nation of Israel from captivity here is the context of this passage.

This passage describes the seventy weeks, preceding the anointing of “the most holy” which will commence the 1000 year Millennial Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

What is not revealed to Daniel is that there is a great interval of time between the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ and the signing of the peace treaty with Israel. This interval of time is the Church Age and then the Rapture of the Church.

The Lord Jesus makes reference to this event in Matthew 24:15 and further clarifies that that the abomination is a person or an image. The reference to “whosoever readeth let him understand” is the admonition of the Lord Jesus to study and understand the prophecy correctly.

Matthew 24:15-18 *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) (16) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: (17) Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: (18) Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.*

Notice when the Image Of The Beast is setup in the Jewish temple that the Lord Jesus Christ warns the nation of Israel to flee Judea, the region around Jerusalem. The Antichrist will be coming after the nation of Israel very shortly, because they will not worship the Antichrist or his image. That is idolatry and spiritual fornication. They will be forced to flee for their lives.

D. VERSES 16-18: THE MARK OF THE BEAST

*VERSE 16: "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:"*

Now we see that it is the False Prophet who will lead the world to receive the Mark Of The Beast. This is the first reference in the book of the Revelation to the Mark. We will describe that in the next verse. Everyone, no matter their social, financial, or emancipation status, will have to receive this mark. It is not optional but mandatory.

The mark must be in the right hand or in their forehead. It will be a universal mark of identification whose purpose will be shown in the next verse.

*VERSE 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."*

Now we see the nature of the Mark Of The Beast. Many who read this passage often miss the full nature of the Mark Of The Beast. It can be received in three ways: the mark, the name of the beast, or the number of the beast. It is very possible that this mark, could be accompanied with a below the skin integrated circuit that would store information about that person and the area of the mark could simply be scanned for them to complete financial transactions.

The Tribulation Saint and the remnant of the nation of Israel will no longer be able to openly buy or sell. Survival for them from this point on will even be tougher.

*VERSE 18: "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."*

The number of the Antichrist will be 666. Threescore is the number sixty, being a score is twenty. So if you add these numbers up they are the number 666. The number six is the number of man, a number just one below the number seven, the number representing God or perfection. Mankind is a sinner and imperfect and falls short of the glory of God. This does not make the number six "bad luck" but simply the number of man.

III. APPLICATIONS

- It seems like the Antichrist is going to win. However remember God will have the final victory in the chapters to come
- It may seem like that Satan and his forces will win in your life. Be comforted, greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.
- Do not be discouraged if the majority of people around you chose to serve Satan. They may or may not even know it.
- Man's best is always short of the glory and being of God. Man can never achieve the perfection of God on his own. The only way to have perfection is through the finished

work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross.