

58. The Book of Revelation—13:8-13

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(10-13-21)

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Revelation Chapter 13 is probably the best-known Chapter in the book for no other reason than it talks about the infamous *'Mark of the Beast'*—"666".

We'll look at that, but first let's back up for those just joining us.

In this Chapter we are introduced to two coming world leaders—one political and the other religious.

In verses 1-10 we are introduced to the first of these two leaders—a political leader likened to a **'beast'** that rises out of the **'sea.'** (**verse 1**)—we know him as the Antichrist.

Then in verses 11 through 18 we are introduced to a second beast, a religious leader who rises up out of the *earth* and will unite the world in a global religion—this second beast is called the *'False Prophet.'*

Revelation 13:1-8 (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 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. 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?" ⁵ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. ⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. 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. 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.

There is a debate as to whether a true child of God can lose their salvation—and based in part on Revelation 3:5 some say *'yes'*.

Revelation 3:5 (NKJV)

⁵ He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

So, because of this verse, many Christians believe that a true believer in Jesus Christ can lose their salvation—i.e., *"have their name blotted out of the Book of Life."*

➤ **Is that what is being taught here? Can a true Christian lose their salvation and be sent to hell?**

I don't believe a true Christian can lose their salvation—so then how do I explain what Jesus said in Revelation 3:5?

It could be that there are 2 books—the *"Book of Life"* and the *"Lamb's Book of Life"*—or that they are one in the same book—what do I mean?

One author had this to say about this verse—

“Is there a warning here that a true believer might lose his salvation? I don’t think so. It would appear that God’s “Book of Life” contains the names of all the living, the wicked as well as the righteous (Psalm 69:28).

Revelation 13:8 and 17:8 suggest that the names of the saved are written in the book from the foundation of the world—that is, before they had done anything good or bad. By God’s grace, they have been chosen in Christ before the beginning of time (Ephesians 1:4; see also Matthew 25:34).

Jesus told His disciples to rejoice because their names were “written in heaven” (Luke 10:20). The Greek verb is in the perfect tense, which means it can be translated (as Greek scholar Kenneth Wuest does in his Expanded Translation of the New Testament), “*your names have been written in heaven and are on permanent record up there.*” It is not likely that Jesus would contradict Himself in this important matter!”

Warren Wiersbe—

“If the names of believers (the elect) are written from the foundation of the world, and if God knows all things, why would He enter the name of somebody who would one day fall and have to be removed from the book? We are enrolled in heaven because we have been born again (Hebrews 12:23), and no matter how disobedient a child may be, he or she cannot be ‘unborn.’”

Again, the first author continues—

“As unbelievers die, their names are removed from the book; thus, at the final judgment, the book contains only the names of believers [those that were chosen from the foundation of the world] (Revelation 20:12–15). It then becomes “the Lamb’s Book of Life” (Revelation 13:8; 21:27), because only those saved by the Lord Jesus Christ have their names in it.

All the others have been blotted out, something God would never do for any true child of God (see Exodus 32:32; Romans 9:3). It is a book of *life*, and lost sinners are *dead* (Ephesians 2:1).”

Revelation 13:9 (NKJV)

⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

Note that Revelation 13:9 applies this truth to “*any man (or woman)*”—no matter what age they may find themselves living in.

There are many horrific things coming upon the world in the way of deception and judgment (Matthew 24; Revelation 6-19)—today is the day of salvation—make a decision to follow the true and living God and His Son, Jesus Christ before it’s too late.

Revelation 13:10 (NKJV)

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.

This proverb or maxim contains an important practical truth for those believers alive at the time of Antichrist’s persecution—they are to depend on God’s providence and not take matters into their own hands. In other words, they must not retaliate against their persecutors—they must submit to the persecution that is coming under the Antichrist and his followers!

Much like the first century Christians didn’t take up arms against the Roman government but submitted to martyrdom (and were used by God to bring thousands to Jesus by their witness)—so too must these Tribulation Saints submit to their persecutors and not fight back.

There is no place now, and there will be no place then, for militant, aggressive, violent believers who take up arms against their persecutors—even as Jesus stated in the face of His persecutors:

John 18:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ ..."My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

There is a couplet in Revelation 13:10—The first part reads, **"He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity."**

In other words, any believer in those days that takes captive and imprisons any of their oppressors—will themselves lose their freedom and be taken captive. **They will lose their freedom as an act of God's chastening—because they will be fighting against God's purposes in using His Tribulation Saints, by their submissive attitude and gentile spirit, to bring people to Jesus.**

The same thing applies to the second part of the couplet—**"he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword."**

Any Christian at that time that takes up arms against their oppressors and kills one of them will, by divine retribution—forefeit their own life. Then the Lord ends verse 10 with the words, **"Here is the patience [perseverance] and the faith of the saints [on display]."**

In other words, those who obey God in this matter will prove the genuineness of their faith—that they are truly God's people (saints)!

One author put it well when he said,

"If the Christian takes the sword, he will not establish the faith, for the truth of Christ cannot be defended by violence. He will simply perish by the sword. But the persecuted can know that the last word is not with the persecutors. This is not fatalism, but the conviction that God is sovereign and works out his good and perfect will [sometimes through ways that don't seem to make sense to us]."

We talked a few Sundays ago about the five missionaries that went to Ecuador in 1956 to try and reach the Auca Indians for Christ (*Jim Elliot, Nat Saint, Ed McCully, Pete Fleming and Roger Udarian*) who were martyred by them.

One of their friends said that those five men were armed, they all carried guns, but they said they would never use their weapons on the Auca's because they were ready to die but the Auca's were not.

(The whole village was eventually saved which would not have been possible if the men had used their weapons on them).

That's basically the mentality that's being talked about here.

During the Tribulation Period, true believers *will not* retaliate and fight against their oppressors—they will submit to them and allow themselves to be martyred for Jesus.

"Those also who suffer according to the will of God," wrote Peter, *"shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right."* (1 Peter 4:19)

Luke 9:52-56 (NKJV)

⁵²...And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. ⁵³ But they did not receive Him, because His face was *set* for the journey to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ And when His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" ⁵⁵ But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. ⁵⁶ For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save *them*." And they went to another village.

Instead of reacting violently, believers must exemplify **"the perseverance and the faith of the saints."**

They must be like the Lord Jesus Christ, who *"while being reviled ... did not revile in return; while suffering ... uttered no threats but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously"* (1 Peter 2:23).

When believers follow Jesus' example, noted Peter, *"those who revile [their] good behavior in Christ will be put to shame"* (1 Peter 3:16).

Those who are *"reviled for the name of Christ ... are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on [them]"* (1 Peter 4:14).

One pastor said—

"The message of this passage is clear. Let the monstrous beast from the abyss do his worst. Let Satan and his demon hosts have their hour. God controls the future and believers belong to Him. "In all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us" (Rom. 8:37), and we will triumph on that glorious day when "The kingdom of the world [becomes] the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever" (Revelation 11:15)."

Revelation 13:11 (NKJV)

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.**

In contrast to the first beast that came up out of the sea and was terrifying to behold (verse 1-2)—this second beast that comes up out of the earth is less terrifying—in fact some would even say that he's *docile* and *'teddy-bear'* like by contrast.

But don't fool yourself—he may look sweet and charming—but he speaks like a dragon.

Commentators are not in agreement with regard to the identity of this second beast.

Some view this second beast as an *institution*, or a form of *government* or the *apostate church* or simply as an *ideology*. But the apostle John helps us to identify *this* beast when he said, **"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth..."**—the Greek word he uses for **'another'** is *allos*.

There are 2 words for *"another"* in Greek—

- **Heteros**—another of a *different* kind. (Heterosexual)
- **Allos**—another of *exactly the same* kind. (Ice is exactly the same as water it's just in a different form)

It's the same Greek word that Jesus used the night before His crucifixion when He promised His disciples—*"I am going to send you another Helper."*

In saying that He used the phrase—*"allos parakletos."*

In other words, He said, “I’m going to send you another Helper like Me”—not a different God but the same God in a different form!

The Holy Spirit is God the Spirit, Third Person of the Trinity.

So, when John said, “Then I saw another [allos] **beast coming up out of the earth...**”—he means, “Another of the same kind.”

By using the Greek word *allos* with regard to this second beast in relation to the first beast—John is telling us that he will be a *person* just like the Antichrist is a person not an institution or an ideology.

Revelation 19:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

With the coming of the False Prophet—this completes the “*Satanic trinity.*”

Satan, the dragon, sets himself up as the “*Anti-God the Father*”; he sets up the first beast as the “*Anti-Christ*” (the son of perdition); and the second beast is set up as the “*Anti-Holy Spirit.*”

One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus, the true Christ and lead people to trust and worship Him (John 16:7–15)—the False Prophet will point to Antichrist and his image and compel people to worship Satan the Dragon through “the Beast” (Antichrist).

Revelation 13:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth...

In contrast to the first beast, who will come up out of the *sea* (13:1), the second beast will come up out of the earth.

I don’t believe this is literal—but as the ‘*sea*’ is symbolic that the first beast comes out of (probably symbolic of the Gentile nations)—I believe the ‘*earth*’ that the second beast comes out of will also be symbolic.

One author said—

“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 be subtler, gentler, less overpowering and terrifying than the Antichrist.”

This interpretation would be consistent with the rest of verse one—

Revelation 13:11 (NKJV)

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.

The *two horns* indicate that the second beast has *power/authority*—but the absence of a *crown* (verse 1) signifies he will not be a political leader.

Jesus warned that there would be false prophets on the earth at this time (Matthew 24:11, 24)— and this one will be the greatest of them all!

He will have the “*character*” of a lamb (giving the appearance of gentleness, meekness and harmlessness)—but he will talk like the dragon (like Satan—the father of lies!).

So just because he’s Mr. ‘nice guy’, Mr. ‘soft-spoken’—no doubt coming with a message of love and unity—doesn’t mean he will be ‘harmless.’

Of course, his message of ‘love’ will be directed at those who agree with him and follow the Antichrist—but for those that don’t agree not so much because the Antichrist will be butchering them (true believers) by the thousands and hundreds of thousands!

But for the most part, in the world’s way of thinking, he’s going to have a very ‘positive’ message of love and unity, of tolerance and inclusiveness, of coming together as one ‘global family’—**Just a ‘nice’ guy with a “teddy bear hug” kind of message.**

Again, he’s going to ‘look like’ (give the appearance) of a lamb (sweet and gentle character)—but he will speak like a dragon (false doctrine).

He will do a lot of talking about loving everyone, but underneath he will be a dangerous beast, just like the first beast—deceiving the whole world and destroying anyone that doesn’t go along.

This reminds me of the Dalai Lama who visited Chicago in 2007—another man that came across like a ‘lamb’ in demeanor but who spoke like a dragon—in other words, a nice gentle man who speaks doctrines of demons.

Matthew 7:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

Revelation 13:12 (NKJV)

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.**

Many scholars believe that during the first half of the seventieth week of Daniel—the second beast (False Prophet) will be the leader of the apostate ‘world church’ made up of religions from all over the world.

Many believe that he could very well be the Roman Catholic Pope for reasons we will look at once we get to Chapter 17.

With the rise of the first beast to a place of worldwide dominion (after his pseudo resurrection and the world’s worship of him)—the apostate church will then be destroyed according to Revelation 17:16 (once the Antichrist solidifies his power, he no longer needs her).

The second beast then transitions into a new position (which he has been waiting to fulfill from the beginning of the 70th week of Daniel) and now becomes the leader of a new religion where the Antichrist is worshipped as God. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

Revelation 13:11-12 (NKJV)

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.** 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 False Prophet's new mission will be to use all the power and means available to him from the dragon (the devil) to cause the earth and those who 'dwell in it' (the "earth-dwellers") to worship the first beast (the Antichrist).

At this point, all other religions and religious systems will be outlawed, and only the religion of the Antichrist will be permitted. Now, the False Prophet will lead the worldwide cult of Antichrist worship—"**...whose deadly wound was healed.**" (verse 12)

As we have already pointed out—many commentators believe that someone is going to try to assassinate the Antichrist.

Revelation 13:3 (NKJV)

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.

Zechariah 11:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ "Woe to the worthless shepherd, Who leaves the flock! A sword *shall be* against his arm And against his right eye; His arm shall completely wither, And his right eye shall be totally blinded."

I personally don't believe he is really dead because I don't believe the devil has the power to raise the dead. However, it isn't going to matter because Satan will present such a convincing counterfeit death and resurrection that the whole world will believe it was genuine.

And in fact, it will be such a powerful testimony to the world of this man's godlike attributes and power (the fact that his deadly wound was healed—i.e., that he came back to life after being killed)—that it's mentioned three times in this Chapter and becomes the thing that the world identifies him with.

Revelation 13:13 (NKJV)

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

During the first 3 ½ years of the final seven the Two Witnesses will have been ministering on the earth preaching a message of repentance.

The earth-dwellers will hate them and want to kill them but God will not let them—

Revelation 11:5, 7 (NKJV)

⁵ **And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner...** ⁷ **When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.**

I believe that the Antichrist, after his 'resurrection' and the devil entering into him, will then be able to kill the Two Witnesses which cause the world to say, "**Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?**" (Revelation 13:4)

After the Antichrist kills the 2 Witnesses he will then go into the Temple and set up his image in the Holy of Holies and demand to be worshiped as God.

Revelation 11:11-12 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. ¹² And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

When God raises the Two Witnesses from the dead and takes them to heaven—the False Prophet will answer that “challenge” by giving “life” to the image of the Beast. (Revelation 13:15)

The False Prophet, empowered by Satan, will perform his “lying wonders” and even duplicate some of the signs (miracles) performed by the Two Witnesses (Revelation 13:13; see also 11:5).

That Satan can fabricate supernatural signs is clear from Scripture—Jannes and Jambres, the magicians in Pharaoh’s court (2 Timothy 3:8–9), imitated some of the miracles God did through Moses and Aaron (Exodus 7:11–12, 22)

These satanic “*lying wonders ...*” will be extremely persuasive “*for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved*” (2 Thessalonians 2:9–10).

Those who reject the saving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ will eagerly accept the damning false gospel preached by the False Prophet—a gospel seemingly verified by spectacular supernatural signs.

Matthew 24:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. [Also see Deut.13:1-5]

Next week, we will finish Chapter 13 at which time we’ll look at the ‘mark of the beast’ and what that is all about—and we’ll also get into Chapter 14.

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

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