



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

CLA – 2016

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Chapter 13

- **11** Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. **12** He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. **13** He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. **14** 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, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. **15** And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. **16** And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, **17** and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. **18** Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

Chapter 13

- **11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.**
- **The first beast, verse #1, came up out of the sea – the second beast comes up out of the earth; so what are we to notice from that?**
- **There are lots of theories, but the one I like is that the focus here should not be on the “earth” at all, but rather “up out of” – in other words, the 2nd beast has the same evil underworld origin as the 1st beast.**

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- **The deception of Satan is manifested in the 2nd beast just like it is in the 1st one.**
- **To come up out of the earth is less mysterious than to come up out of the sea – the sea, if you stare down into it, becomes a place of darkness and mystery; much more so than the earth.**
- **And the 2nd beast has “two horns like a lamb” – meaning that he is not nearly so imposing as the 1st beast with ten horns and seven heads.**

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- **However, we do read this - “he spoke as a dragon” and that is very much out of sync with his lamb-like appearance.**
- **One would expect a soft quiet soothing voice from a lamb, but this 2nd beast is really just as much an agent of Satan as the 1st.**
- **It has been said by many that Adolph Hitler’s public speaking voice was far from his normal voice – there is a good chance this is due to the fact that it was Satan speaking through him when he spoke in public.**

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- **12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.**
- **The 2nd beast exercises all the authority of the 1st beast because they are both controlled by the same evil source of power – Satan.**
- **When we read “he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast” – we should think in terms of “he convinces” the world to worship the 1st beast.**

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- Again, I refer to the deceptions of Satan – he is at work in the 2nd beast doing things similar to what Jesus said the Holy Spirit will do.
- John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.
- Satan, the Antichrist (1st beast), and False Prophet (2nd beast) set up a counterfeit Trinity of sorts.

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- So we have the 1st beast setting up a worldwide kingdom, and the 2nd beast cheering him on and seeking to convince the world that the Antichrist is worthy of worship.
- "The dynamic appeal of the false prophet will lie in his skill in combining political expediency with religious passion. His arguments will be subtle, convincing and appealing. His oratory will be hypnotic, for he will be able to move the masses to tears or whip them into a frenzy. He will control the communication media of the world and will skillfully organize mass publicity to promote his ends. He will manage and massage his message with guile beyond words. He will mold world thought and shape human opinion like so much pottery for clay,". John Phillips

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- Rev 17, when we get there, will demonstrate that in the end times there will be a one world religion.
- In fact, from even before the rapture of the church, efforts have been underway to unite all of the world's religions into one "peaceful" form.



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- **And in the tribulation period, a one world church will form with the permission of the Beast – for a time.**
- **So for a time in the last 7 years of Earth's history, there will be a one world government and a one world religion – the world will be united perhaps as never before.**
- **But when the 2nd beast, the False Prophet, comes on the scene he will turn on the world church and begin convincing the world that the Beast is God, and he alone should be worshipped.**

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- **13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.**
- **Mark 13:22 "False Christs and false prophets will arise and will show signs and wonders in order, if possible, to lead the elect astray."**
- **Remember Pharaoh's magicians, Jannes and Jambres – when Moses threw his staff down and it became a snake, they did likewise by using Satanic power – that is what the False Prophet will do as well.**

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- **14 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, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.**
- **“And he deceives” – this is a theme that surrounds Satan and his followers without end.**
- **It is verse #14 that informs us that the “fatal wound” the Beast suffered was with a sword – and since it is thought that he rose from the dead, it’s easy for the False Prophet to call for the world to worship him.**

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- **15 And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.**
- **So after convincing the world to worship the Beast, the False Prophet now convinces the world to erect a statue honoring the Beast, which he then proceeds to cause to speak.**
- **A couple of points here – Satan has a lot of power that we need to be aware of; he is not all-powerful, but he is more than a little imp in a red suit.**

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- **1st Peter 5:8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.**
- **Secondly, if you recall, at the mid point of the tribulation God has unleashed Satan to do almost anything he wants – and he wants to deceive for the purposes of stealing, killing, and destroying.**
- **So now when the False Prophet is intent on causing the world to worship the Beast, he uses Satanic power to enable the statue to at least appear to speak.**

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- Now I do not believe for a minute that the statue can actually speak – Satan just does not have that kind of power, but He is the master of deception.
- 2nd Thes 2:9 This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. 10 He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them.
- Not to be lost in all of the deception, is a fact that is not a deception – anyone who does not worship the Beast will be killed. (anyone caught not worshipping the Beast)

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- 16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, 17 and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.
- Rev 14:9 Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God,"
- Whatever this mark is, it is a very serious offense in the eyes of God – if nothing else, it is an indicator the hardness of the hearts of those who accept the mark.

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- Remember way back in chapter 2 we saw that in order for Roman citizens to please Caesar, who claimed to be God, they had to offer a pinch of incense to him in order to enter the market place.
- Well, in much the same way, Antichrist, who also wants to be God, requires his subjects to receive a mark that is very much like a brand of ownership.
- If you envision the clothing of John's day, where most of the body is robed, it makes a lot of sense that the mark would necessarily be on the hand or forehead.

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- Sometimes Christians are forced to be marked in other ways - Gal 6:17 From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body *the marks of Jesus*.
- Now without a doubt, just like refusing to offer incense to Caesar excluded one from the market place, refusing the mark of the Beast, will exclude one from commerce.
- If you can't buy, sell, or trade, you will have a hard time living in a world where you have no access to food, shelter, and medical care.

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- **What is interesting about the mark of the Beast is that the further along we get in history the more options there seem to be for its fulfillment.**
- **Today, we have retinal scans, facial recognition, and other biological measurements that can be cataloged, and used to identify and validate who people are.**
- **And we have other technologies like RFID that allows us to imbed a chip in our dogs so they can be located if lost, and identified when found.**

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- **In short, the mark of the Beast puts you in the system, and once in the system, you can be permitted, or denied access to the basics of life.**
- **Very much like a credit or debit card allows you today to travel without any actual cash, the mark of the Beast is your proof that you are in the system and have access to goods and services.**
- **Interestingly enough, none other than the World Bank has invested in developing a single world wide system for identifying every single person on the earth.**

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Public-Private Cooperation to Build Digital Identity Systems

July 27, 2016 — The World Bank, together with partners, launched a white paper, "Digital Identity: Towards Shared Principles for Public and Private Sector Cooperation."

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- **18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.**
- **So why the call to wisdom?**
- **Could it be because when the Beast shows up in history with a numbering system of some kind imbedded in a brand, that the people of that day will live in a world of many numbers?**
- **Bank account #s, Credit Card #s, Logins and Passwords galore?**

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- **I must say that this whole idea of the 666 is very difficult to interpret because there are no other scriptures that give us insights into what it might be.**
- **A popular interpretation is that by assigning numerical values to each letter of whatever alphabet you use, that you can identify the beast by adding up the numbers in the letters of his name.**
- **In my lifetime alone, it's been Henry Kissinger, Gorbachev, and a pope or two, but none of them have proved to be so.**

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- **I happen to think that it may well be impossible to apply the necessary wisdom needed to identify the Beast until it happens.**
- **As for the numbers – in both Greek and Hebrew, letters are also numbers. From Latin, we have the Roman Numeral system of numbering using letters.**
- **So for now, I would not get too hung up on the numbers and who they may identify because until we get “there”, we are not “there” and probably have no way of understanding.**

Chapter 13

- **Here is what is certain – the beast is a man, and nothing more.**
- **He is empowered by Satan.**
- **He builds a worldwide empire and allows a worldwide church to form supporting his power.**
- **Midway through the tribulation period he shuts down the false worldwide church and demands your worship, or your life.**

Questions