

4/18/04

Revelation 12:13-13:18

The seventh trumpet has been sounded and it has brought us to the end of the seven years of Tribulation and Great Tribulation. Rev. 11:15-18

As we stated in our previous study, chapters 12-14 provide for us greater detail regarding the persecution of Israel by the Antichrist, the false prophet and those who respond to the gospel.

We didn't quite finish chapter twelve in our last study.

1. The vision of the woman, her child and the Dragon. Rev. 12:1-6
2. The vision of Satan being cast out of heaven. Rev. 12:7-12

12:13-17 The woman persecuted by the dragon.

12:13 The identity of the woman is confirmed.

- 1) The dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth.
* His time is short!
- 2) The dragon persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.

a) There will be those who will protect the Jews. Matt. 25:3-46

b) vs.1-2, 5

12:14 The identity of the place of the woman's protection is confirmed.

- 1) But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place.
 - a) The word "but" marks the sharp contrast of his pursue of her without any success.
 - b) The two wings of a great eagle as spoken to old Israel as Pharaoh pursued her. Ex 19:4
 - c) For the believer the promise to soar on wings of eagles. Deut. 32:10-11; Is. 40:31
- 2) She is to be nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.
 - a) In the wilderness, the city of Petra.
 - b) The region of Edom, Moab and Amon will escape control. Dan. 11:41
 - c) Her place, prepared by God.
- 3) To be nourished.
 - a) For time, times and 1/2 time, 3 1/2 years or 42 months. Dan. 7:25; 12:7
 - 1) Jesus said, "'Flee to mountains, house top and field.'" Matt. 24:16-18

- 2)) The early church at the coming of Titus in 70 A.D, fled to the city of Pella, it is a two-fold prophecy.
- b) It is the same word as feed. vs. 6
 * Two of three Jews will die. Zech. 13:8-9

12:15-16 The indicated manner of protection of the woman.

- 1) So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.
- a) At the breaking of the covenant and the anti-christ enters the temple and sit, as God, Israel knows they have been deceived.
- b) She flees toward Jordan but he pursues with overwhelming odds to destroy her.
- 2) But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood, which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.
- a) God in His love and promised protection intervenes super-naturally.
- b) God opens up the earth and swallows up the army pursuing the nation, much like when he swallowed up Korah and his friends. Num. 16:31-33

- 12:17** The indicated rage of the dragon in view of his failed attempt to destroy her.
- 1) And the dragon was enraged with the woman, seeing she escaped.
- 2) So he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, Jews who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ, the fifth group.
- a) The rest of believers who have trusted Christ are persecuted Jews and Gentiles, 144,000.
- b) He has killed the two witnesses. Rev. 11
 * This has to take place before the sixth seal; this is the middle, the abomination of desolation, the end of the first three and an half years!

13:1-10 **The first Beast.**

- 13:1** His political platform.
- 1) Some place the first portion of verse one with the last chapter and interpret “I” as “he”, the Dragon stood, Satan.
- 2) Others take I to indicate John standing on the sand and the sea.
- 3) The beast rises out of the sea.
- a) Some take this to indicate he will arise from the Gentiles. Rev. 17:15
- b) Others interpret it to mean the

- c) John has told us that he came out of the abyss, the bottomless pit. Rev. 11:7
 - d) Zechariah tells us he will not regard God of his fathers, therefore he is believed a Jew by some. Zech. 11:16-17
- 4) The seven head and ten horns, indicate absolute power and authority over the ten nations confederacy, he is “the political Leader”. Dan. 7:7; Rev. 12:3; 17:12
- a) This has already been introduced. Rev. 12:3
 - b) The only difference is ten crowns as oppose to seven.
 - c) The addition is the blasphemous name on his seven heads, complete blasphemy and is identified with the Harlot of Babylon on seven hills. Rev. 17:3, 9
* Augustus, Nero and Domitian were addressed as Saviors of the world.
 - d) Paul ties the blasphemous names to the time of the Anti-christ’s entry into the temple. 2Thess. 2:4
- 13:2** His political power.
- 1) John saw the beast like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. Dan 7:3-8

- * John gives them in reverse order of Daniel.
 - a) The lion is Babylon.
 - b) The bear is Meda-Persia.
 - c) The leopard is Greece.
- 2) The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.
- a) The Dragon as we have seen is Satan, the first beast is an incarnation of Satan, the anti-christ. Rev. 12:3
* Absolute unhindered power!
 - b) The fourth beast mentioned by Daniel was dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth, Rome, John omits it. Dan. 7:7
 - c) Daniel says, “It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.” Dan. 7:7
 - d) Instead John focuses on revived form of the Roman empire of the ten nation confederacy, headed by the anti-christ, the ten toes of Daniel mixed with iron and clay. Dan. 2:33
* He will be an absolute dictator like Nebuchadnezzar, worst than Hitler!
 - e) The “little horn”. Dan. 7:8, 11, 20, 25
* Remember “anti” means two things, instead or in place of Messiah in the first half and against in the last half.

f) The lawless one. 2Thess. 2:7-11

- 13:3** His personal brush with death, mortally wounded.
- 1) John saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. vs. 12, 14
 - a) Some see it as a man, the Antichrist. Rev. 17: 8
 - b) Others the revived Roman Empire.
 - c) I think that it is both, according to the two-fold form of prophecy, short-term and long-term.
 - d) Short-term the ten nation confederacy comes to be, long-term an assassination attempt on the anti-christ.
 - 1)) The word wound “plege” is translated plague ten times in Revelation an four wound, all implying judgment and death.
 - 2)) The word is also translated for the beatings of official flogging. Lk. 10:30; 12:48; Acts 16:23; 2Cor. 6:5; 11:23
 - 3)) Zechariah tells us that his right arm will be withered and right eye darkened. Zech 11:16-17
 - 2) John gives us the response of the world, “And all the world marveled and followed the beast.”

- a) This is not a local event.
- b) They all marveled “thaumazo” means to be had in admiration.

- 13:4** His partnership with the Dragon.
- 1) John says that as a result they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast.
 - a) This will be full on Satanic worship headed by the Anti-christ.
 - 1)) The word worship “proskuneo” means to kiss the hand in reverence or prostrate oneself to the ground in obeisance and homage, braking the first two commandments.
 - 2)) The word appears twenty-four times in Revelation, more than any other book of the New Testament.
 - 3)) This type of worship is to be given to Jesus!
 - b) They also worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast?
 - 1)) They will worship him as God, he can not be killed, he is invincible.
 - 2)) True to the worship of the Roman emperors, so the Anti-christ will be the new Caesar of the revived Roman empire.
 - 3)) He is both emperor and the empire.

- c) Their total confidence and allegiance is evident by their declaration, “Who is able to make war with him?”
- 1)) They want to be on the winning side.
 - 2)) They believe the lie, rather than the truth, “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” 2Thess. 2:9-12

13:5-6 His perverse mouth.

- 1) Once again John tells us that he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies. vs. 5a
 - a) He was given, indicative that God is in control and setting the limits.
 - b) A mouth speaking great things and blasphemies.
- 2) He was given authority to continue for forty-two months. vs. 5b

- a) This is universal authority for exactly three and a half years.
 - b) This identifies the last half of the seven-year tribulation.
 - c) Satan was cast out of heaven to the earth having great wrath, knowing he has a short time, “woe to the earth”. Rev. 12:9, 12
- 3) Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy. vs. 6
- a) Against God.
 - b) Against His name.
 - c) Against His tabernacle, heaven.
 - d) Against those who dwell in heaven.
 - 1)) He will enter the temple and declare himself God, demanding all to worship him. 2Thess. 2:4
 - 2)) “He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time”. Dan. 7:8, 25; 11:36
 - 3)) After the manner of Antiochus Epiphanies, a type of anti-christ.

13:7-8 His prophetic success.

- 1) He is God’s instrument. vs. 7

- a) The authority was granted him by God to make war with the saints and overcome them.
 - 1)) The saints not the church but Tribulation saints of the last three and a half years, this is the context.
 - 2)) These are those referred to under the fifth seal. Rev. 6:9
- b) The authority is given to him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.
 - * “Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.” Dan. 11:36
- 2) He is God’s counterfeit. vs. 8
 - a) Once again the universal worship is pointed out, “all who dwell on the earth will worship him”. Rev. 3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:14; 17:8
 - 1)) There are more references to the Beast. Rev. 11:7; 14:9, 11, 15:2; 16:2, 10, 13; 19:19-20; 20:4, 10
 - 2)) Nine more in chapter 17.
 - 3)) The attempt of Satan at the tower of Babel is realized at this time for a short time.

- 4)) Justin Martyr, 165 A. D., Irenaeus 202 A.D., also believed this interpretation of the man of sin.
- 5)) The Didache, early second century church manual taught this also.
- 6)) Modern day commentators like Barnhouse, Bruce, Gaebelain, Ladd, Morris, Scofield and Walvoord take this interpretation.
- 7)) Luther and Calvin and other Reformers identified the Beast with the papacy of the Roman Catholic Church, which is certainly true.
- b) The identity of the worshippers are those whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb. Ps. 69:28; Phil. 4:3; Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; 22:19
 - 1)) Here John is placing the focus, not on the name being written from the foundation, he will do that in chapter seventeen. Rev. 17:8
 - * Most modern translations indicate the names, I think it is wrong!
 - 2)) His focus is on the Lamb being slain from the foundations of the world.

- 3)) Yes, God know who is going to be saved and who is not by their own choosing!
 * Yet the warning of being blotted out, is very valid, even though it does not make sense to us! Rev. 3:5

13:9-10 His perilous person and time.

- 1) The call to hear as in the messages to the seven churches. vs. 9
 * “If anyone has an ear, let him hear”.
- 2) The defiant commitment of individual believers “anyone” will result in their sufferings. vs. 10
 - a) He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity.
 - b) He who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword.
 - c) Here is the patience and the faith of the saints, who overcome by the blood of the lamb. Rev. 12:11
 * The various forms of suffering and persecution. Jer 43:11; Matt. 26:52

13:11-18 **The second beast**

13:11 His political platform.

- 1) John saw another beast coming up out of the earth.

- a) This is in contrast to the Anti-christ form the sea. Rev. 13:1
 * Some think he will be a Jew, due to the covenant Israel make with the anti-christ, if he is, I believe he will come out of the Catholic Church!
- b) He comes out of the land, being the false prophet, he is “the religious leader”. Rev. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10
- 2) He had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.
 - a) He is one with the anti-christ, symbolic of the two horns and the word another “allos”, of the same kind.
 - b) He and the anti-christ are to counterpart and opponents of the two prophets of God. Rev. 11
 * Just like John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus
 - c) He deceives with his words presenting himself as a lamb gentle and caring yet he speaks as a Dragon, lies and blasphemes.

13:12 His political power.

- 1) He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence.
 - a) The shares equal authority as the first beast, the anti-christ.

- b) He exercises it before the anti-christ, the first beast.
- 2) He is the P.R. man for the first beast and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 2Thess. 2:11
 - * We have the trinity of darkness, the Dragon, who is Satan, the first beast, who is the Anti-christ and the false prophet!

13:13 His miraculous credentials as the beast.

- 1) He performs great signs.
 - a) He makes fire come down from heaven on the earth.
 - b) He does it in the sight of men.
 - c) This is what the two prophets will do, again they stand in opposition and in contrast to the two witnesses, fire comes out of their mouth. Rev. 11
- 2) Kind of like the great sign of Elijah, calling down fire from heaven, as he opposed the prophets of Baal. 1Kings 18
 - a) Jesus spoke about false prophets in sheep's clothing but they inwardly were ferocious wolves. Matt. 7:16
 - b) We are to try the spirits. 1Jn. 4:1-3; Deut. 13:1-5

13:14-17 His partnership with the beast.

- 1) He deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast. vs. 14a
 - a) He is one with the first beast to deceive the people. 2Thes 2:9-11; Rev. 16:14; 19:20
 - b) He is given this authority by God, like the first beast.
- 2) He promotes full blown idolatry of the first beast. vs. 14b
 - a) By telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast.
 - b) By pointing to his indestructibility, "Who was wounded by the sword and lived."
 - c) Jesus said, "I have come in My Father's **name**, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his **own name**, him you will receive." Jn. 5:43
- 3) He was granted power in two miraculous ways. vs. 15
 - a) He gives breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should speak, which could be in conjunction with the abomination that causes desolation, defiling the temple not only by the man but the image. Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:15
 - * The image of Nebuchadnezzar. Dan. 3

- b) He by the same power causes as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.
 - 1)) Like emperor worship by having to burn a pinch of incense and declared Caesar is lord, many will be beheaded for their witness of Jesus and His word. Rev. 20:4
 - 2)) Like Nebuchadnezzar did to Daniel and his friends. Dan. 3:1-11
 - 3)) Sun Myung Moon was heralded by his followers as the “Lord of the Second Advent”, as well as by him himself and others.
- 4) He causes all social and economic classes to obey, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads. vs. 16
 - a) He will have universal power and authority, without exception.
 - b) He will force people to take the identifying mark of the beast.
 - * The word mark “charagna” was used for a stamp for engraving, etched or branded.
 - c) This plan has already been considered and is in affect in various forms, a chip could easily be inserted under the skin and the suggested areas have been, the hand or the forehead.

- 5) He controls the world market. vs. 17
 - a) No one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast.
 - b) It is the number of his name.

13:18 His perilous person and time.

- 1) Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man.
 - a) Many have attempted to figure it out but it is useless, if you are left behind you will know.
 - b) The Greek and Hebrew use their letter for numbers, the first ten respectively, the second ten, 11-20, etc.
 - c) The number 6 is the number of man.
- 2) His number is six hundred and sixty-six.
 - a) Many have tried to figure out various individuals by the numerical equivalence such as Nero, Hitler, etc.
 - b) But the important thing is that it is on the number of his name, it is the mark of allegiance to the anti-christ and rejection of Jesus Christ!