

Christ & His Bride

Lesson #17

Rev. 13: Beast from the Earth

May 28, 2025

In Matt. 24:3 [Olivet Discourse] the disciples asked Jesus: Tell us, when shall these things be?
and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

His answer: Matt. 24:4-5 Take heed that no man deceive you.

⁵ For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Matt. 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew
great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

➤ Context: This is during the Tribulation Period.

Rev. 13:1 The first beast that comes from the sea is:

➤ the false christ or antichrist = the little horn of Daniel 7 & 8

Rev. 13:11 Then I saw another beast coming up from the earth. He is the false prophet.

The Antichrist and the False Prophet are the prototypes of these two classes of deceivers.

In Job 40-41 you encounter two beasts: Leviathan from the sea; Behemoth from the land.

They are beasts that no human can tame. Perhaps John uses Job's imagery to show how threatening these beasts are and how we need God to defeat them.

Also, earth and sea represent the inhabited world—Satan stirs up trouble from both domains.

The Tribulation is a time of divine judgments unleashed on the world for its continued rebellion.

In God's revelation of this evil end time system, the phrase, "was given to him,"

is repeated 6 times. [Six is the number of manifested evil [Rev. 13:18].

➤ It occurs 2x in Rev. 13:5, 2x in Rev. 13:7, and in Rev. 13:14-15.

Rev. 13:5 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.

Rev. 13:7 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.

Rev. 13:14 ...power to do miracles in the sight of the beast which deceives earth dwellers

Rev. 13:15 ...power to give life unto the image of the beast,

The repetition of "and it was given to him" indicates God's judicial unleashing of powers of incipient evil of which this world cannot, in its wildest imagination, dream.

Key Point: All this occurs by the will of a sovereign God who uses Satan as His instrument of judgment on a stubborn, rebellious, unrepentant, and unbelieving world.

John mentions the wound by a sword 3x. [13:3, 12, 14]

Satan presents his great "masterpiece," the Antichrist, to the world. What's next? WONDER

Rev. 13:3 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.

A terrified world will wonder at Antichrist's power and his sudden rise to international fame and authority.

Rev. 13:4 And they WORSHIPED the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they WORSHIPED the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

- What is the significance of such a statement?

Exodus 15:11 "Who is like thee among the gods, O Lord?

Who is like thee, majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?"

Ps. 35:10 All my bones shall say, LORD, who is like unto thee,

Isa. 40:18 "To whom then will you liken God?" Or to what likeness will you compare Him?

Isa. 40:25 "'To whom then will you liken me?' says the holy one."

Isa. 46:5, 9 To whom would you liken me and make me equal and compare me? says God."

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else;

I am God, and there is none like me,

Micah 7:18 "Who is a God like unto thee?"

Worship to God throughout the OT: "Who is like you? Who is able to wage war with you?"

- This is mocking language. Basically, they are saying, "You are God, you take over for God."

This will be a pivotal moment for Satan and his Antichrist.

Man will believe the Antichrist is invincible as they recall his meteoric rise to power, his great victories, his overwhelming personality, his miraculous healing.

Countless people who will not love the truth of the Gospel so as to be saved are deceived to the point they literally worship this man as if he were God.

Every unbeliever in the world will be amazed. They will be willing to do whatever he bids.

Satanic worship will become the worldwide rage.

The occult will be in charge of this blind and corrupt world.

There will be WAR - Rev. 13:7-8

Rev. 13:7-8 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.

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.

Dan. 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. [3 ½ years]

Note: 2x "there was given to him."

A mouth that spoke arrogant words and blasphemies

42 months to function.

Clearly, the giver is the sovereign God giving him the authority and establishing the limits

Person #3 of the Unholy Satanic Trinity = False Prophet = Anti-Holy Spirit

Matt. 7:15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing,

but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

Note: The false prophets come to you; you do not go to them.

Rev. 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth;

and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon. [lamb-like beast]

Another = Greek *allos* meaning, "another of the same kind." He plays a different role, but in character he is another one who is beastly, rapacious, cruel, and hostile to the flock of God's people like a wolf, though dressed in sheep clothing.

- Skilled at deception and persuades people to follow and worship the counterfeit Messiah
- 2 horns but no crowns = suggest he has authority and power
- The absence of a crown indicates that his authority is not political.

Jesus warned there would be false prophets [Matt. 24:11, 24], and this one will be the greatest.

- He will have the "character" of a lamb.
- He will speak with frightening authority like a hissing dragon.
- Connects him in character with THE DRAGON, Satan, from whom he gets his power.
- He is referred to 3x as the "false prophet." Rev. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10

Rev. 16:13-14 And I saw *coming* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs;

¹⁴ for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the entire world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.

Consider: Most religions will claim to be humanitarian, loving and concerned for society.

In reality, since Satan is always at the root of the system [I Tim. 4:1-3; II Cor. 11:13-15], they can become vicious, cruel and murderous as a wild beast when people do not toe the "party line."

Persecutions that have occurred in the name of religion:

- Inquisitions of Rome in 1233 and 1542
- Persecutions of Spain in 1478 against Jews and Moslems.

The False Prophet's Power: Rev. 13:12-15

Rev. 13:12 And he exercises all the power of the first beast before him and CAUSES the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

The purpose of this beast or false prophet is to promote the authority and worship of the first beast, just as the Holy Spirit works to bring glory to Jesus Christ.

John 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine, and declare it to you.

Objective of False Prophet: Cause all people to worship the antichrist [little horn].

Holy Spirit		False Prophet	
Exalts Christ	John 15:26	Exalts Antichrist	Rev. 13:12

Gives Divine Revelation	John 16:13	Gives Satanic Revelation	Rev. 13:13
Enlightens with Truth	John 14:17	Deceives With Error	Rev. 13:14
Builds Body Of Christ	I Cor. 12:13	Builds Body of Antichrist	Rev. 13:15-16
Marks Us As Christ's	II Cor. 1:22	Marks Us As Antichrist's	Rev. 13:18
Secure Us For Heaven	Eph. 4:30	Secure Us For Hell	Rev. 20:4

Matt. 3:16-17 And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

¹⁷ And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

- The Holy Spirit anointed Jesus at the beginning of his 3 ½ yr. earthly ministry.
- The False Prophet joins himself to the Antichrist at the beginning of the final 3 ½ years of the Tribulation Period.

The False Prophet's Tactics: He pretends to have divine authority by using signs.

II Thess. 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

Rev. 13:13-14a And he performed great wonders, so that he makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceives them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; [establishes credibility]

- Deceives = Greek planaw = to lead astray, cause to wander, mislead, deceive.

The prophets of Baal couldn't call down fire. Elijah did call down fire from heaven.

God proved him true and showed the other prophets were false [I Kings 18:38].

But here the False Prophet succeeds. He copies Elijah. It makes him look legitimate.

When Satan attacked Job and took out all of his animals and his livestock, it was done by fire coming down from heaven. [Job 1:16] Satan has the power to imitate and perform supernatural miracles. Be careful that you're not deceived.

Consider: When Jesus ministered on earth, Jewish leaders often asked Him to perform some sign to prove that He was indeed their Messiah. Jesus refused. But the false prophet will perform deceptive signs that will lead the world into devil-worship.

II Thess. 2:9-10 Even him [Antichrist], 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. And for this cause, God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

Warning! Miraculous signs are not in themselves a proof that whatever is going on is from God. Experiences alone can be deceiving. We live in an esoteric, mystic oriented age where reality is too often reduced to a personal experience or some kind of enlightenment.

Even within the body of Christ, the emphasis has moved away from the Word of God as our authority to an emphasis on phenomena and subjective experiences.

He commits the "abomination of desolation" prophesied in Daniel 9:27 [Matt. 24:15; II Thess. 2:4] Rev. 13:14b 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.

- Men must have some VISIBLE God to worship. [Golden calf]

Rev. 13:14 The false prophet who comes alongside the beast deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which were given to 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.

Up to this time, the two witnesses have been ministering at the temple in Jerusalem, but "the beast" will slay them and take over the temple. 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."

The Holy Spirit truthfully, by contrast, uses the resurrection to convince men of the person and work of Jesus Christ. As in the early church, the resurrection of Christ was followed by sign miracles to authenticate the message of Christ and His prophets [Heb. 2:4], so the false prophet does the same in his deception.

It is the task of the false prophet to make the beast believable as a resurrected God.

Rev. 13:15 There was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast might even speak.

- Greek = pneuma = spirit or wind > It will appear to come to life.
- Greek = zoe = LIFE

It is not real life, zoe, but only breath, pneuma. Since breathing is one of the signs of life, men think the image lives, but John is careful not to say that he gives life [zoe] to the image. Only God can do that. It is something miraculous, but also deceptive and false.

Perhaps there is some kind of satanic ruse pulled off whereby the antichrist supposedly rises from the dead.

II Thess. 2:9 The antichrist comes with the working of Satan.

He will win the world over because of his power, his signs and his lying wonders.

This will bring him worldwide acclaim as he rises, as it were, from the dead and demonstrates his ability to bring back a whole empire. The whole earth was amazed, fascinated.

He will immediately become the idol of the world.

They are so traumatized and enamored with him that they follow after him. Why?

J. Vernon McGee: The beast is a man who will exhibit a counterfeit and imitation resurrection.

This will be a great delusion; the big lie of the last 3 ½ years.

God will give them over to believe the big lie.

II Thess. 2:10-11 because they didn't receive the love of the truth so as to be saved, and for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false. Maybe what is false is that resurrection. But they believe it because they reject the truth and he becomes the recognized leader of the world.

Some Consider: This is either a fake death or a fake resurrection.

This man could actually be killed and they could fabricate some kind of electronic man who could make the whole world believe he was still alive.

One obvious critique of idols is that they can't see or hear or walk or talk. Yet the False Prophet seems to overcome that weakness. Behind the scenes is something far more twisted.

Note: The dragon remains very much in the background.

He does his work not openly, but through people.

What is done is more than human evil, but it is an evil which reveals itself in human deeds.

Four times in Revelation, John links idolatry with sorcery: manipulating the supernatural to get results. Sometimes drugs are included. In Rev. 9:20 idols are connected to demons; and demons *do* speak. By tricking them into idolatry, the False Prophet leads them into the demonic.

Some commentators suggest the antichrist will claim he is the Christ spirit reincarnated.

➤ More people would be inclined to accept reincarnation than resurrection.

➤ The concept of reincarnation appeals to much of the religious world.

Perhaps he can convince the world that he was here as the Christ and now Christ's spirit is back again in him. The tremendous things he can do may convince the world through the lying signs and wonders that he indeed is the reincarnation of the Christ spirit.

He appears as a supernatural conquering hero and one that transcends death.

The world has experienced the 7 seals and the 7 trumpet judgments.

People must be living in the terror and the sheer horror of death.

$\frac{1}{4}$ of the world is killed during the seals. $\frac{1}{3}$ of the world is killed during the trumpets.

If he can convince people that he is the life that transcends death, he will gain their acclaim.

The False Prophet also persecutes those who refuse to worship the Beast.

Rev. 13:15b so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause all who do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

Matt. 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

All Christians & Jews will become outlaws & need to hide in the countryside & live off the land. They will be hunted down like animals. Most will be killed.

A parallel of the Antichrist can be found in Dan. 3:1-30

As the head of a world kingdom, King Nebuchadnezzar was similar to the Antichrist.

He was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.

He built a great image and ordered people to worship it.

People from all over the world obeyed the command except 3 Jews: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The King was furious and ordered them thrown into a fiery furnace unless they changed their mind. They did not know if God would deliver them, but they preferred death over worshiping the image. They refused again. The angry king had them cast into the blazing furnace. God protected them and they came out unharmed.

Consider the types:

Nebuchadnezzar	Antichrist
Three Jewish men	Israel
Fiery Furnace	Tribulation Period

Question: Where was Daniel? Type of the church = Taken out of the Tribulation Period?

The False Prophet Pressures Everyone With Economic Incentives

Rev. 13:16 And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 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.

Just as the angel marked the names of Jesus and the Father on the forehead of the 144,000, the false prophet will seal his servants.

Ed Hindson: These prophecies speak of religious, political and economic control of the world at the end of the age.

Reasons For The Mark:

To counterfeit the mark God will give to the 144,000 Jews.

To extend favors to those who support the world government.

To identify and eliminate opposition to the world government.

To track and control commerce.

To force people to stop worshiping God.

To force people to worship Antichrist.

To permanently tie people to the Kingdom of Antichrist.

Those who take the mark will face the WRATH OF GOD.

Rev. 14:9-11 The third angel was "saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.

Rev. 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints:

here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Consider: It's a call to perseverance & trust in God's justice, recognizing that those who persecute His people will ultimately face their own consequences.

- Press on! Your faith and endurance will be rewarded.

Rev. 13:18 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.

Question: Why 666? Some suggestions:

- Goliath, opposer of God's people and type of Satan, was 6 cubits in height, his spear's head weighed 6 shekels; had 6 pieces of armor.

Nebuchadnezzar's statue, type of image of the beast, was 60 cubits high, 6 cubits wide and 6 musical instruments beckoned its worshipers.

Since man was created on the 6th day, 6 is the number of man, just short of perfection. The Satanic Trinity cannot claim the number 7. It must settle for 666.

- This man and his system can never do that which God has promised.
- He promises peace but brings war. He promises life but brings death.
- He promises liberty but brings slavery. He promises happiness but brings misery.
- He promises significance but brings the loss of true meaning & purpose in life.
- The beast [in place of Jesus] is only a man who is evil and Satan controlled.
- He is far short of the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

All resistance to the world system will be crushed by a massive worldwide persecution.

Tribulation saints will face the most intense persecution the world has ever known.

Multitudes will be slaughtered in his effort to establish a one-world Satanic religion.

The world system of the beast will be the final Gentile world power to have dominion of Israel during the times of the Gentiles.

Luke 21:24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. [Times of Gentiles: Began with Nebuchadnezzar, head of gold.

Will end with the 2nd coming when Jesus Christ destroys ALL Gentile rule.]

Rev. 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

Interesting: This phrase was mentioned many times in Rev. 2-3 to the 7 churches.

However, in all cases the phrase was:

He that hath an ear, let him hear WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH UNTO THE CHURCHES.

The omission of that phrase indicates the rapture of the church occurs before the Tribulation Period.

Ryrie: The important principle of retribution is about to be announced.

After all that has been said about the power of the beast, verse 10 is a word of great comfort.

Rev. 13:10 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.

The captor will be taken captive; the killer will be killed. When God's purposes are finished through the beast, God will take him captive and confine him to the lake of fire.

In the knowledge of this is the patience and faith that sustains the saints who endure these persecutions.

Rev. 19:19-20 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.
²⁰ And 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.

Rev. 20:1-3a And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

² And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled:

Isa. 9:6-7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.