

# CHAPTER THIRTEEN

## *THE BEAST & 666*

### THE FIRST BEAST

#### *Revelation 13:1-10*

This chapter introduces us to two beasts. The first one, commonly known as the Antichrist, is unveiled in *Verses 1* through *10*, while the second beast, known as the false prophet, is revealed in *Verses 11* through *18*. The first beast is political; the second is religious. Both, however, are energized by the power of Satan, and thus constitute an unholy trinity — the devil, the antichrist, and the false prophet. Remember, Satan is the great imitator. The incarnation of himself in these two villains is his final attempt to wreak havoc upon earth. Knowing that he has but a short time left, he makes an all-out move to usurp God’s position and authority through his two allies— the beasts of this chapter.



Before we move further let me make a couple of clarifying statements.

As stated earlier in our study, Bible chapters and verses came into existence in the 1500s. They are very helpful in locating passages, but they are not inspired. At times they even cloud the information being presented. Actually, *Revelation 13:1* should have been part of *Chapter 12*, for the subject is Satan and his persecution of earth dwellers. Therefore, according to the original Greek manuscript, the personal pronoun should be *he* instead of *I*, because he pictures Satan standing upon the sand of the sea. Accordingly, this portion of Scripture should read, “*And the dragon was wroth with the woman... and Satan stood upon the sand of the sea.*”

## I. THE FIRST BEAST RISES

*Verse 1: And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*

- A. At this point note that John has left his place in heaven and is now by the sands of the sea to witness firsthand the events that are about to unfold. We see Satan standing upon the sand of the sea.
  - 1. *The sands of the sea* pictures the devil's control over earth's teeming millions at an appointed time (**Revelation 17:5** and **Revelation 20:8**). It also represents unrest and turmoil among the masses.
  - 2. This control is established through the two satanically-inspired beasts who come out of the sea and the earth.
  
- B. The first beast (the Antichrist) rises out of the sea and has seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns. He is a literal man, but demon-possessed, for he (or his power) comes out of the abyss, for "...*the beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit (Revelation 17:8).*"
  - 1. The seven heads, loaded with blasphemy, also portray the five kings who had ruled up to John's day; the sixth king who was in power at that time; and the seventh king who will reign as the Antichrist during the Tribulation hour.
  - 2. **Revelation 17:10** confirms this: *And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.*
  - 3. Likewise, the ten horns also picture ten nations over whom the beast or Antichrist rules.
  - 4. The scene before us pictures the final, or seventh, world leader ruling over a confederation of ten nations during the end time. In order to understand that the ten horns are actually ten western nations—each of which was part of the old Roman Empire—one must study the prophecy of **Daniel** in **Chapters 2** and **7** of the book bearing his name.

Let's digress for a moment and investigate.

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon in Daniel's day, had a dream. When he awakened, however, he could not recall the dream. Therefore, he called his magicians, astrologers, and soothsayers together, requesting that they both recall the dream and explain its meaning. Not one of them was able to do so, even under the sentence of death: *And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain. Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation. Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven (Daniel 2:13,16,19).*

Next we find Daniel in the presence of the king, explaining God's vision to him in **Verses 27 through 36**. This is one of the most important texts in the entire Bible because it reveals the history of the world from that time to our present day. *"Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, show unto the king; <sup>(28)</sup> But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; <sup>(29)</sup> As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. <sup>(30)</sup> But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart. <sup>(31)</sup> Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. <sup>(32)</sup> This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, <sup>(33)</sup> His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. <sup>(34)</sup> Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. <sup>(35)</sup> Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. <sup>(36)</sup> This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king."*

Nebuchadnezzar was astonished as his dream was revealed, and shocked as its interpretation was given. Daniel told the king that he (Nebuchadnezzar), as the leader of the Babylonian empire, was the head of gold and that the two arms of silver (representing the Medes and the Persians) would soon overthrow him. Next the stomach and thighs of brass (Greece) would defeat the Medes and the Persians.

Eventually the two legs of iron (the Roman Empire, headquartered at Rome and Constantinople) would conquer the Greco empire. These events occurred exactly as God had revealed them to Daniel and as he, in turn, told Nebuchadnezzar.

Now notice something extremely important. The ten toes of iron and clay never destroyed the legs of iron—the Roman Empire! Why? Rome fell through internal corruption.

This historical fact is the subject of Edward Gibbon's great book, *The History of the Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Therefore, we see that the final world power is a union of ten western nations represented by the ten toes of the great image. The iron tells us these nations were part of the old Roman Empire, whereas the clay speaks of a deterioration as the empire weakened over the centuries. Thus, the final world power will not be communism but a confederation of western nations under the first beast, or the Antichrist.

The ten toes also coincide with the ten horns of the beast in the verse under consideration. In the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream (**Daniel 2:36-44**), Daniel described the toes as kingdoms, concluding in **Verse 44** with the statement, *And in the days of these kings [ten of them, as pictured by the ten toes] shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.*

For centuries Christians have prayed **Matthew 6:10**: *Thy kingdom come*. During the Tribulation hour, the 144,000 Jewish evangelists of **Revelation 7:3-8** will preach the gospel of the kingdom — the good news that the King is about to return. I can almost hear them, can you? Well perhaps not so much today for fear of being branded a religious fanatic. None-the-less, take pause, listen, can you hear them shouting this exciting information in the streets? **“The King is coming! The King is coming!”** Finally the King is seen returning in **Revelation 11:15** and **Revelation 19:16**, and this event of the ages takes place when a final confederation of ten western nations has been established upon earth. Could the present European Economic Community or Common Market be a part of this picture? I believe it could be! Oh, yes my friend, Jesus IS coming soon!

At this point we need to consider another extremely important fact. Ireland and Denmark—present Common Market members—were never part of the old Roman Empire. This apparent problem, however, is quickly resolved when one considers the information presented in **Daniel 7**. Here we discover that, following the establishment of a ten-nation confederacy, another world leader arises. He takes control, ousts three nations, and replaces them with two others and his own. Specifically, Daniel says, *I considered the horns [ten of them], and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns [original members] plucked up by the roots (Daniel 7:8)*. This coincides perfectly with **Revelation 13:5**.

**Daniel** continues in **verses 24** and **25**: *And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the most High*. Here we not only see the world leader overpowering three kings and replacing them with original members of the old Roman Empire—we also observe him fulfilling the prediction of blasphemy described in our text.

There is no doubt about it. A confederacy of ten western nations will be formed. Then another leader will appear, remove three nations, replace them, and rule as the Antichrist until the King of kings returns to earth and destroys his evil empire. Thus, the Common Market will grow to thirteen nations, and these thirteen could eventually control all nations and finally be reduced to ten at the end when this ten-toed, ten-horned confederacy is destroyed. This is the event described by Daniel as a *stone cut out without hands [breaking] in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold*.

Then **Daniel 2:44-45** occurs: *And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure*.

Yes, King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream has come to pass throughout hundreds of years of history, and the present alignment of western nations in the form of the European Economic Community may well be the final piece in the puzzle. Prepare to meet thy God (**Amos 4:12**).

- C. We see then that this beast represents part of the old Roman Empire and what we have come to refer to as the Revived Roman Empire.
- D. The Beast is established as the newly revived Roman Empire with her political superman. There are seven things I would like to point out about this first Beast:

1. He is said to have power, a throne, and authority.
2. He has authority over tribes, tongues and nations.
3. He will be a political world dictator.
4. He is a monster, he is wild, he rules in terror.
5. His reign is for seven years with 3½ years of terror.
6. Though his government will be under kings, he will be supreme.
7. He is the world's great blasphemer.

## II. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF THE BEAST

*Verse 2: And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.*

- A. The devil gave him his power, his seat, and his great authority.
  1. We have already discovered that (1) Babylon, (2) Medo-Persia, (3) Greece, and (4) Rome constitute the four empires of world history.
  2. We have also learned that the revived Roman Empire, in the form of a final ten-nation confederation, becomes the end-time power block.
  3. **Daniel 7** pictures these four empires as (1) a lion, (2) a bear, (3) a leopard, and (4) a beast who is a combination of the previous world powers he has conquered.
    - a. The particular description denotes the insignia of the Roman Empire. See **Daniel 7**
    - b. The beast's empire contains a portion of each preceding empire.
- B. The only difference between the descriptions of John and Daniel is that the order is reversed in the Book of Revelation. The reason for this is simple:
  1. John is looking back to the beginning while Daniel is looking forward to the conclusion. Putting it all together, the message of the ten horns, the ten toes, and the four beasts is one and the same from different vantage points—and all picture a world dictator governing ten nations at the time of the end!
  2. This ten-nation confederacy constitutes the revival of the fourth power—the old Roman Empire—as typified by the fourth monstrous animal or beast.

### III. The Wounded Head Restored and the Following of the People

**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.*”

- A. In the fifth century the great Roman Empire was wounded unto death. Parts of it have existed ever since, but the real head died.
  - 1. After the Rapture the Roman Government will be restored and the whole world wonders at the great miracle of the Revived Roman Empire (The European Union).
  - 2. There is already the tremendous cry for a “One World Government” – the common market - so we can see how this central force can easily be possible.
- B. The wounding of the beast is mentioned three times in this *chapter*—*verse 3, 12, and 14*. The wound produces death, but restoration to life follows.
  - 1. Some commentators think that this statement represents the fall of the old Roman Empire and its restoration through the ten-nation confederacy.
  - 2. Others believe that it speaks of the resurrection of Judas Iscariot, for he and the Antichrist are the only ones ever called the *son of perdition* (*John 17:12* and *2 Thessalonians 2:3*). God alone knows.
  - 3. A third possibility would be that the Antichrist is assassinated midway through the Tribulation hour, perhaps in retaliation for overthrowing three members of the original ten-nation federation.
    - a. Such an event would give the great counterfeiter, Satan, the opportunity to perform a resurrection.
    - b. This would prove invaluable to the prestige of the Antichrist, since the deity of the Lord Jesus was affirmed by His resurrection 2,000 years before (see *Matthew 12:39-40*). Remember that the Antichrist proclaims himself God and even sits in the Temple in Jerusalem during the Tribulation (see *2 Thessalonians 2:4* and *Matthew 24:15*).
    - c. Thus, a counterfeit resurrection would assure the world that he is all he claims to be.
    - d. I personally believe this to be the correct solution, because when it happens, *all the world* [wonders] *after* [him].
- C. Mankind is literally overwhelmed by the Antichrist’s power and authority.

#### IV. The World Worships Satan Who Gave Power to the Beast.

*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?*

- A. Another reason that *Verse 3* may speak of an actual resurrection is that millions who previously would not believe in the Antichrist now begin to worship him—and Satan.
  - 1. The superhuman, this world's dictator of the Revived Roman Empire will sweep men off their feet with his exhibition of great miracle working power. They will worship him immediately.
  - 2. They will declare that he can do anything.
- B. In the second half of this chapter, we will see that the false prophet or religious leader of the Tribulation period actually enforces the worship of the Antichrist!
  - 1. Since the people think of him as God, they cry, *Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*
  - 2. Yes, who can combat this self-proclaimed god and be victorious?

#### V. The Beast Boasts and Blasphemes

*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.*

- A. The Antichrist's blasphemy during the final three and one-half years of the Tribulation hour most likely has to do with his mockery of the Almighty.
  - 1. He could boast of his greatness for awhile but the end was coming about.
  - 2. What things he had done constitute no doubt, the sum of great things spoken.
- B. One of the reasons God hates idolatry (the use of images in worship) is that He wants no rivals. Hear Jehovah — "*Thou shall not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shall not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God. (Exodus 20:4-5)*
- C. Think of the insult to the Eternal One, our Heavenly Father and the Son who died for all when the Antichrist says, "**I am God,**" and when the teeming millions bow to him, to Satan, to the false prophet, to the image— to the abomination of desolation—erected in his honor. This blasphemy continues.
  - 1. Imagine, when Jesus walked with man they despised Him, reviled Him and without any thought what so ever they crucified Him [Jesus] the only Saviour.
  - 2. Now we see, now Jesus sees countless millions come and bow down to this counterfeit Christ, the one who has from the beginning deceived everyone all the while trying exalt himself above his creator, Jehovah. Lucifer aspires to be greater than his creator. It continues on as we see next:

## VI. The Beast Blasphemes God, the Temple, and Then Them That Dwell in Heaven:

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

- A. Terrible words are spoken. What is said we do not know. The blasphemy is undoubtedly intensified because Satan himself is speaking.
- B. One thing that we may be sure of is that the utmost of undying hatred to God which the malice of the dragon can suggest, is publicly and loudly expressed.
- C. Jesus, the true God, was accused of blasphemy in His day because He claimed to be God (“**Matthew 9:3** ... *This man blasphemeth.*”
  - 1. Jesus was reviled by the people of this world when in fact He was the Messiah, the Son of God.
  - 2. Ironically, here, the world accepts the Antichrists’ claim to deity, and this perpetrated lie is blasphemy to God.

Now, here is a thought-provoking theory: during the first forty-two (42) months of the Tribulation, the Antichrist acts under the influence of Satan. However, after Satan is cast out of heaven (in **Chapter 12**) and comes to earth, he may actually incarnate himself in the dead body of the Antichrist who had the wound by a sword, and did live (**Chapter 14**). Thus, the beast is raised from the dead by the counterfeiter (Satan), who dwells in that body for the final forty-two months, claiming deity. As a result, he is able to experience that which he sought when he was cast out of heaven, crying, *I will be like the most high* (see **Isaiah 14:12-14**). Satan’s ultimate desire is now realized—he is worshipped as God. The blasphemy is unspeakable! He desecrates everything his filthy hands touch, including the Tabernacle and its worshipers.

## VII. He Makes War with the Saints and Butchers Them

*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,*

- A. The fight is on for the saints of the Tribulation hour. Remember, this is not the Church. Satan battles the Church as they return with Christ (**Revelation 19:14**)
  - 1. In the scene before us, he is attempting to destroy the millions who *washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:14) and who also refused the mark of the beast (Revelation 20:4)*.
  - 2. Instead of experiencing defeat, they overcome (Satan) *by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony (Revelation 12:11)*.



- B. During this time, the Antichrist controls the entire world. He is an international dictator exercising power over all kindreds, tongues, and nations. Such a one-world government is almost upon us. Consider for a moment some of the global organizations which have become existent in our day (there are more agencies, committees, organizations, etc., in the process of being created as of the time of this revision and there is no way of keeping that information up to date but here are but a few of the more prominent ones)
1. The International Atomic Energy Agency
  2. The International Labor Organization
  3. The Food and Agricultural Organization
  4. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, or World Bank
  5. The International Development Association
  6. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, commonly called UNESCO
  7. The World Health Organization
  8. The International Finance Corporation
  9. The International Monetary Fund
  10. The International Civil Aviation Organization
  11. The Universal Postal Union
  12. The International Telecommunications Union
  13. The World Meteorological Association
  14. The Intergovernmental Maritime Consultive Organization
  15. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades Organization
  16. The World Trade Organization
- C. The formation of such international alliances has led outstanding thinkers to state that a “New World Order” is on the horizon. Presently we may be witnessing mankind’s final approach to the much-publicized New World Order, or one-world government, of the Antichrist. At this point in history, all the world will be amazed as this self-styled deity takes control, and the majority will submit to his authority. However, God always has a remnant who will not bow to Baal or other deities.

### VIII. Everyone Worships the Beast Except a Few Whose Names Are in the Lamb's Book of Life

*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.*

- A. The true believers of the Tribulation hour will have nothing to do with this satanic monster, even though they will not be able to buy or sell without his approval (**Revelation 13:17**).
- B. Their love for Christ will mean more than life, shelter, and food. They will love Christ to the end, for John declares, *I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years (Revelation 20:4)*.
- C. Is the Tribulation hour approaching? Will a demon-possessed or devil-incarnate human claim deity and be accepted as world leader and be worshipped as God? I believe so.

Let me tell you why:

Henry Spaak, a spokesman for the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) in Brussels, Belgium, headquarters for the Common Market, made a profound statement relevant to that organization's goals and operations a few years ago. He said, **"We do not want another committee. We have too many already. What we want is a man of sufficient stature to hold the allegiance of the people and lift us out of the economic morass into which we are sinking. Send us such a man, and be he God or devil, we will accept him."**

Mr. Spaak, your wish will soon become a reality! The life-and-death matter of these first eight verses in Chapter Thirteen (**Revelation 13:1-8**) are so important that God repeats the warning He so often presented to the seven churches.

- D. So it is that the Beast conquers and kills any and all who have not received the mark, but they are not destroyed. They have not accepted the mark they have rejected the Antichrist and eternal life is given them by the one true Christ.

### IX. Sound out of a Solemn Plea!

*Verse 9: If any man have an ear, let him hear.*

- A. This advice is for one to wise up and listen.

- B. Our writer isn't wasting time. Now is the day when men should heed the warning of the Lord.
- C. **Beware! Take heed! Think seriously! W H Y ?**

## X. The Result of One Leading Others, to Destruction

*Verse 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.*

- A. This is the exact caution Paul stressed in **Galatians 6:7**: *For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*
- B. This is a solemn warning that “*with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. (Matthew 7:2)*”
  1. Whosoever leads into captivity must himself go into it.
  2. Those who refuse to worship and bow down to the Beast will be taken into captivity, and they that endure unto death will be among the great multitude out of every nation, tongue, tribe and kingdom, mentioned in **Chapter 7**.
- C. Those who receive the mark of the Beast will bust hell wide open!
  1. There will be those who will succumb to the terrible persecution and horrible suffering while in captivity
  2. They will have accepted the mark and worshipped the Beast.
- D. But remember that there will be some who will be saved during the days of Tribulation but God help them for their days will be long and horrible until the day of their departure.

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As we come to close of the first half of this chapter and enter into the second we will be introduced to the second beast and the events that will lead up to a subject that many want to know about. They would peel away everything else in this wonderful book just to get a glimpse of this one thing. We are about see in following verses, what many people have associated with the book of **Revelation** more than any other thing. The subject matter is not for the weak of heart. It has captured the attention of writers, fiction and non-fiction. What is it? **6 6 6**

People have become so fixated on **6 6 6** and other **shock and awe** readings contained in Revelation along with other proponents of apocalyptic scriptures that they have not been able to receive the knowledge of God's revelation in prophecy. **Revelation** is far more than the horrors that have been associated with it. It is the culmination of all that is and ever will be. It is the pronouncement of the end of sin and it's evils. Restoration and recreation, the beginning of God's blessings for all who have awaited in faith

## THE SECOND BEAST

### *Revelation 13:11-18*

Here at **Revelation 13:11-18** the second beast is introduced to (the religious fake, or false prophet) who is the third member of the satanic trinity. The devil imitates the Father, the Antichrist imitates the Son, and the false prophet imitates the Holy Spirit. This religious hypocrite fulfills the prediction of the Saviour who said in **Matthew 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.*”

#### I. The Second Beast Appears

**Verse 11a:** *And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth;...*”

- A. When the Second Beast makes his appearances, things will be leveled off politically. It will be a time of false peace. Let us compare the two Beasts:
1. The first Beast is a secular power; the second is a religious power.
  2. The first Beast is a Gentile; the second is a Jew.
  3. The first Beast has ten horns; the second has two.
  4. The first Beast is a civil authority, the second is a religious authority.
  5. The second Beast is subordinate to the first Beast. He used the military power of the first Beast to enforce his demands and his dictatorship.
  6. The second Beast is lieutenant to the first. He appears after the first Beast – they do not both appear at the same moment.
  7. The first Beast is head of a vast political system and he perishes at the close of the Tribulation. No power on earth can withstand this tremendous political figure... but, of course, God’s power will finally put him down.
  8. The second Beast rules in Palestine. He finally becomes the minister of the first beast. There will be a world church – both Beasts will suffer the same fate – see **Revelation 19:20**.

It seems Satan is winning but God will pay off in full measure.

#### II. Characteristics of the Second Beast

**Verse 11b:** “*...and he had two horns like a lamb [identifying him with Christianity], and he spake as a dragon [tying him in with Satan].*”

- A. Had two horns - denoting power but less power than the Son of God who has all sustaining power.
- B. He is also referred to as “the false prophet.”
1. He has horns like the lamb but his voice betrays him.
  2. He spoke as a dragon.

### III. The Second Beast is Equal in Power With the First Beast and Exalts Him!

*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.*

- A. Clearly, the power of the false prophet is in the realm of religion. He is coequal in power with the Antichrist.
  - 1. One heads up the secular world, while the other controls the religious scene. These two work closely together.
  - 2. The Antichrist shares his authority with the false prophet, protecting him and his religious colossus in return for a promise of loyalty and devotion.
  - 3. Thus, as head of the world church, the false prophet sees to it that the Antichrist—who was wounded and resurrected—is worshipped. What a team! This second beast is also one of the greatest miracle workers in history.

### IV. The Wonders of the Beast

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

- A. The stage is set for the appearance of this miracle working personality. He will do it.
  - 1. These great wonders are called lying wonders in **2 Thessalonians 2:9**.
  - 2. They are not magical, “sleight of hand” manipulations, but the result of supernatural power from the dragon that enables these men to even produce fire.
- B. Imagine having power to reach up and pull down fire from the air. Since God often revealed himself by fire, the false prophet also uses fire. Note:
  - 1. **Genesis 19:24** “Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven”
  - 2. **Leviticus 10:1-2** “And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. <sup>[2]</sup> And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.”
  - 3. **1 Kings 18:38** “Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.”
- C. After the miracles, the masses will advertize him as God. Satan shares his supernatural power for one reason which is seen next in **Verse 14**.

## V. The Miracle Working Power leads the Masses into Idolatry

**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.*

- A. The sole purpose of all these miracles is to prepare the people for idolatry.
  - 1. The false prophet, the beast, uses his miracles to deceive all and actually entices mankind to build the greatest statue in history in the very image of the Antichrist.
    - a. This image is that of the first beast.
    - b. This monstrosity will be erected in Jerusalem and will be placed in the Jewish Temple.
  - 2. Such a blasphemous act is against the city conscience and is forbidden by the second commandment. Note: (**Exodus 20:4 KJV**) *“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:”*
- B. This is why the image is such an obnoxious, hateful, and abominable thing and is labeled the abomination of desolation by the Lord Jesus Christ. (**Matthew 24:15 KJV**) *“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:)”*
- C. This stature will be a constant reminder that the former “political empire” is not dead but is now resurrected and combined with the one-world church.

## VI. Life Given to the False Image to Speak and Power to Kill Anyone Who Rejects It

**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.*

- A. If you are here when the image is set up, and when the second Beast is in power, you will worship the image or your death is certain and immediate.
- B. What would one rather do, worship Christ, die to self and live eternally or remain on the earth and live through the worst of times during the tribulation and be forced to bow down to a false image that can speak and make a decision as to whether you live or die? So how is it that a graven image can do this?

I have my own opinion on this matter.

Since the image is able to speak, it might well be the ultimate achievement of our present-day computer systems, already capable of conducting intelligent conversations.

Professor Seymour Wolfson, of Wayne State University in Detroit, is an expert in the field of computers. He states: “Already there is a report of computer systems that have the storage capability of ten trillion human beings.” Personally, I believe that the Antichrist will enslave and control earth’s four billion inhabitants through such an all-knowing, monstrous computer. Such

a system is absolutely essential to his having all the facts on every member of the human race at his fingertips. As a result, he will, with unerring precision, be able to know who receives his orders, obeys his commands, and honors his laws. His computer will also tell him who earth's rebels are!

How efficient are modern computers? Computer Digest states: "In one-half second, today's computers can debit 2,000 checks to 300 different bank accounts, or can examine 1,000 electrocardiograms, or score 150,000 answers on 3,000 exams or figure the company payroll for 1,000 employees." Amazing!

Japan, as of this writing, has a working prototype robotic humanistic interface that carry on a conversation with and individual. Some of the uses of the prototypes are for use in automated banking, restaurant fronting (minimum wage earners who take our orders). The Vatican was at on point considering a unit such as this for a drive thru confessional for the fast paced catholic. Is there no end? I believe you see where I'm going with this.

The Antichrist will most certainly use such a computer—and it will be fashioned in his own image.

## VII. The Mark of the Beast 666

*Verses 16-18: 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: <sup>(17)</sup> 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. <sup>(18)</sup> 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.*

- A. As we have seen, the Antichrist will undoubtedly use a computer to enslave earth's population during the Tribulation hour. Also we discover that he will effect and maintain this control through commerce—the buying and selling of products.
  - 1. In order to make his plan operable, the Antichrist will also introduce an international identification system in the form of a mark (possibly a laser tattoo) placed in the right hand or forehead of every individual participant.
  - 2. Without this mark, no man—no man—will be permitted to purchase or sell even the smallest item of merchandise. I believe in a literal marking for identification just as I believe that Jesus lived, died and was resurrected from the grave. I believe man will have to show physical means of approval to Satan.
- B. According to *Verses 17* and *18*, this identification mark will be—or will include as a prefix—the digits "666."
  - 1. The use of "666" as a prefix appears most plausible, as this is the only way one person could be differentiated from another.
  - 2. If all numbers were identical, mass confusion would ensue. Therefore, prefixes preceding the "666" or using the "666" as the prefix code are essential for marketing purposes.

- C. With specific reference to *Verse 18*, one should be aware of the fact that there have always been, and always will be, individuals who claim to know the identity of the Antichrist.
1. They take the number "666" and, through all kinds of mathematical formulations, attempt to come to a conclusion. Their efforts, however, can amount to no more than mere speculation because we cannot know who the Antichrist is until he arrives on the scene, and he cannot arrive until the Church is raptured.
  2. God's Word admonishes the Christian to be wise (see *Matthew 10:16*) and watchful (see *Matthew 24:42*), especially as the day of Christ's return approaches (see *Hebrews 10:25*).
- D. As shocking as the information presented in this chapter may seem, such a day is at hand.
1. A cashless, checkless society is in the planning stages and a number of countries are already experimenting.
  2. To be sure, "It's later than you think!" The reign of the Antichrist is upon the horizon.
  3. This new Hitler, with a monstrous computer which will enslave millions, may soon control the earth.

Unbeliever, "*Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:*" (*Isaiah 55:6 KJV*)

There is much confusion in the land concerning the mark of the Beast. There are varied ideas on the subject. But examine what is said. If you have reasoning power figure it out. God's perfect number is seven. Man's number is six. Man was made on the sixth day of creation. The numbers add up to 666. So it is a number of incompleteness or imperfection.

I can see how everything might be numbered because we do very little today without a little government card with several numbers on them ie: Social Security Cards. I'm not saying that social security cards are the mark of the beast no more than a debit card or credit card which take us closer and closer to a moneyless society but if you put the prefix of 666 in front of the numbers used in all nations to identify their citizens it would be a very plausible explanation to this marking that I mentioned earlier. The laser tattooing will prevent fraud. One final thought, as of the day of this writing I happened across a news story where a child had received a chip in the back of their hand, the same kind they are using on our pets. That chip gives important information about the child's medical needs as well as the fact that information can be added to it as time goes by. So in this age of marks and numbers and super computers with cameras everywhere we no longer are able to live private lives. The stage is set, the end is near. Jesus is coming for His church.

Again, I say to the unbeliever, "*Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:*" (*Isaiah 55:6 KJV*)

**Next: Chapter 14, The Lamb and the 144,000**