

**"The Significant Characters of the Tribulation"**

**Part 7**

**Revelation 12-14**

**GREETING:** I would like to welcome all who have tuned into livestream and all those who have received a CD. I am Pastor Keith Showalter and I would like to thank you for joining the services of the Claysburg Bible Church today. We are currently in a study of the book of Revelation and this is Revelation Study #64. We are looking at the Significant Characters of the Tribulation found in chapters 12-14 and this is part 7 of the Significant Characters. It is great to have you listening to our study today.

**Introduction:** Today in our study we are returning to Revelation 13 and this will be our third look at this chapter so far. Now this chapter is full of spiritual Truth and for that reason we are not going to rush through these verses but instead we are going to gather and glean as much as we can in our journey through the chapter.

When we started into this chapter we were introduced to a BEAST that came up out of the sea. He had 7 heads and 10 horns. He appearance was that of a leopard, a bear, and a lion and to this Beast Satan gave his authority, power and his seat.

**Notice Revelation 13:1-2**

This Beast is the Anti-Christ and because he rises out of the sea he will probably be a Gentile. In the Bible the Sea often represents the Gentile Nations and the land represents the Nation of Israel.

The 7 heads and the 10 horns point to kings and kingdoms.

**The Seven Heads**

**THE 7 HEADS ARE 7 KINGDOMS**

**Revelation 17:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> *And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.*

<sup>10</sup> *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.*

The words in verse 10 should read "THESE ARE 7 KINGS".

The Ten Horns

THE 10 HORNS ARE 10 KINGS

**Revelation 17:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> *And the ten horns which thou sawest **are ten kings**, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.*

<sup>13</sup> *These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.*

**These 10 kings will exist under the reign of the Anti-Christ.**

**Notice Revelation 13:3**

The Anti-Christ will be a counterfeit of Jesus Christ and he will be killed and he will be resurrected just as Jesus Christ and this combined with his defeat of the 2 witnesses of chapter 11 will convince much of the world to follow him.

**Notice Revelation 13:4-6**

He will continue for three and one-half years which will be the last half of the Tribulation. This man will be completely against God and God's people. This is to be expected because his kingdom will be the Kingdom of the Anti-Christ.

**Notice Revelation 13:7**

He will rule the entire world and he will be used by Satan to unleash severe persecution upon those who are saved during the Tribulation.

This now brings us to where God has led me in our study today. There is another group in this chapter that play a very significant role and I want to take the time to look at this group of individuals.

I. **The Earth Dwellers**

**Notice Revelation 13:8a**

We have looked at the Earth Dwellers a while back but there are some things that we did not consider and I want to bring them to your attention.

Here in this verse we see that ALL WHO DWELL UPON THE EARTH SHALL WORSHIP THE BEAST. Now we know that this does not mean EVERYONE who is in the Tribulation.

We know that the 144,000 will not worship him and they will be on the earth.  
ABSOLUTELY no believers will worship the Anti-Christ.

**Notice Revelation 13:15**

Here we see that those who will not worship the Beast will be hunted down and killed. So when John records that ALL who dwell on the earth will worship the Beast he is referring to a UNIQUE group of individuals.

**Notice Revelation 13:8 again.**

Here we see that their names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb. This is a very interesting statement. Let me show you what is recorded later about these individuals.

**Revelation 17:8**

*<sup>7</sup> And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.*

*<sup>8</sup> The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.*

This statement is saying the same thing as Revelation 13:8. Here we see that the EARTH DWELLERS never had their names written in the book of Life from the foundation of the world. This is very interesting when we look at several other verses.

II. **Book of Life**

The Bible teaches us that every person's name is recorded in the book of life and was at the foundation of the world.

**Psalms 69:21-28**

*<sup>21</sup> They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.*

*<sup>22</sup> Let their table become a snare before them: and that which should have been for their welfare, let it become a trap.*

*<sup>23</sup> Let their eyes be darkened, that they see not; and make their loins continually to shake.*

<sup>24</sup> *Pour out thine indignation upon them, and let thy wrathful anger take hold of them.*

<sup>25</sup> *Let their habitation be desolate; and let none dwell in their tents.*

<sup>26</sup> *For they persecute him whom thou hast smitten; and they talk to the grief of those whom thou hast wounded.*

<sup>27</sup> *Add iniquity unto their iniquity: and let them not come into thy righteousness.*

<sup>28</sup> **Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.**

Here we see that David prays that the names of his enemies would be blotted out of the book of the living or the book of life. These are unsaved people.

Now let me show you what Jesus spoke to the church at Sardis.

### Revelation 3:5-6

<sup>5</sup> *He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; **and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life,** but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*

<sup>6</sup> *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

Here we see that he who **OVERCOMETH** will be clothed in white raiment and will NOT have their name blotted out of the book of life.

Now let me show you who the **OVERCOMERS** are.

### 1 John 5:4-5

<sup>4</sup> *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

<sup>5</sup> *Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

So every person has their name entered into the book of life but if you die without Christ then your name will be blotted out. Now let me show you why everyone's name is in the book of life.

### 2 Peter 3:9

<sup>9</sup> *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

Now let me get you back to the Earth Dwellers.

### Revelation 17:8

<sup>7</sup> *And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.*

<sup>8</sup> *The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.*

Here we see that this group NEVER had their names written in the book of life. Why?

God in His sovereignty knew from before the foundation of the world that these people would follow the Anti-Christ and would reject the Truth of the Gospel as proclaimed by the 144,000 and the 2 witnesses. He knew they would reject the miracles performed by the 2 witnesses and He knew the Seals; the Trumpets and the Bowls would not turn these people. Therefore, their names were never entered into the book of life.

Did God desire to see them saved? YES! Let me show you the Words of Jesus spoken to the church at Pghilidelphia.

### Revelation 3:10

<sup>10</sup> *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

One of the purposes of the Tribulation will be to try these Earth Dwellers. In other words, God knows they will not repent so the Tribulation will be used by Him to show the hardness and the depravity of their hearts. Let me show you what happens when they make the choice to follow the Beast and turn their backs upon the Gospel.

### Revelation 14:9-11

<sup>9</sup> *And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,*

<sup>10</sup> *The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:*

<sup>11</sup> *And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

To worship the Beast and receive the mark of the Beast is an unpardonable sin in the Tribulation. Their choice to do so will seal their eternal destiny.

## 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12

<sup>8</sup> *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

<sup>9</sup> *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,*

<sup>10</sup> *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

<sup>11</sup> *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*

<sup>12</sup> *That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

The strong delusion will most likely fall upon the Earth Dwellers because they refuse to receive the love of the Truth.

Now listen to what I am about to say; God will use these people in the tribulation and they will be instruments of His wrath. They will be used by God to show what happens to those who refuse to turn to Jesus Christ.

Let me show you something from Genesis.

## Genesis 4:13-16

<sup>13</sup> *And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.*

*<sup>14</sup> Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.*

*<sup>15</sup> And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.*

*<sup>16</sup> And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.*

Cain had a mark that identified him as a man who had turned from God. The EARTH DWELLERS will also have a mark that will separate them as people who have rejected the Gospel. God will use them to show others what happens to those who reject the Gospel.

**Conclusion/Application:**

Your name is in the book of life but to keep it there you need to accept Jesus Christ. If you continue to reject Him God may choose to use you to show what happens to people who reject the Gospel.

**Romans 9:17-18, 21-22**

*<sup>17</sup> For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.*

*<sup>18</sup> Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.*

*<sup>21</sup> Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?*

*<sup>22</sup> What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:*

