

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

**Part 9**

**Revelation 12-14**

**Introduction:** Before we start into our text today I want to give you a short review about what we are currently looking at. In Chapter 13 of the book of Revelation we can see two individuals and one specific group of people.

It is in this chapter we can see two "BEASTS". One rises from the sea and the other rises from the land. The first BEAST is the anti-Christ. This man will come on the scene shortly after the church is raptured away. He will be a very powerful individual who will come to power as a one-world ruler. He will make a covenant with Israel for 7 years and he will break the covenant after three and one-half years. He will kill the two witnesses of Revelation 11 and he will also be killed and then be raised from the dead. This man is very closely tied with Satan and will eventually be possessed by Satan himself. This man will be sold out to Satan and he will be Satan's masterpiece. He will be given all the power and the authority of Satan and he will rule over all nations. He will bring great persecution upon those who are True believers and he will speak against God and the saints.

**Notice Revelation 13:6-7**

There is also a very distinct group of individuals here in this chapter who are known through-out the book of Revelation as the Earth Dwellers. These people will reject the teaching of the Gospel in the midst of all the judgments of the Tribulation, they will worship the anti-Christ and they will perish in their sins.

**Notice Revelation 13:8**

We are also introduced to another BEAST in this chapter and he is known as the False Prophet. His responsibility under the control of Satan will be to point people to the anti-Christ. He will do this with his words and with his miracles.

**Notice Revelation 13:11-14a**

Last week we focused upon verse 14a and we talked about the danger of basing our theology upon signs. This man will perform great signs and wonders. He will be able to call down fire from heaven and with his signs and wonders he will deceive many.

This man's signs and wonders will be straight from Satan.

Last week I reminded you that Satan is a counterfeit and he will duplicate many of God's works so as to lead people to hell and to lead the church into confusion. This is why we do not base our theology on signs and wonders we base it on the Word of God. If someone has an experience and it is not in agreement with God's Word then it is NOT of the Lord.

**Matthew 7:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

<sup>22</sup> *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

<sup>23</sup> *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

**Exodus 7:10-12a**

<sup>10</sup> *And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent.*

<sup>11</sup> *Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.*

<sup>12</sup> *For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents:*

Let me show you another verse that we looked at last week.

**Deuteronomy 13:1-4**

*If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,*

<sup>2</sup> *And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;*

<sup>3</sup> *Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.*

Let us now get to our text for today.

I. **The Image**

**Notice Revelation 13:14**

Before we look at the image let me just point out that we are reminded 3 times in this chapter about the counterfeit resurrection of the anti-Christ.

**Notice Revelation 13:2-3, 12, 14**

This tells us how significant this event will be and it supports what we just considered. Signs **CANNOT BE TRUSTED**. The anti-Christ will receive a deadly wound and then Satan will resurrect him. Let me show you something concerning the anti-Christ.

**Revelation 11:7**

<sup>7</sup> *And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.*

Here we are told the BEAST ascends out of the bottomless pit. This is probably a reference to Satan possessing this man after he has received the deadly wound. Satan enters him and he is resurrected. Let us remember he is going to claim to be Israel's Messiah.

Let me point to something else before we get to the image. This False Prophet will deceive many by his signs and wonders but I also believe there is another way in which he will deceive the people. He will use the Word of God and because people will base their theology on feelings and emotions and for that reason they will be easy targets for false teaching. Let me show you some verses he will probably use to point to himself.

**Malachi 3:1**

*Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.*

**Malachi 4:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:*

<sup>6</sup> *And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*

**Notice Revelation 13:14 again.**

This False Prophet will convince the Earth Dwellers to make an image in the likeness of the anti-Christ.

Now we do not know how this image will be constructed but we do know that it will be set up in the Temple in Jerusalem. Notice the words of Daniel.

**Daniel 9:27**

<sup>27</sup> *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

**Daniel 12:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> *Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.*

<sup>11</sup> *And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.*

<sup>12</sup> *Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.*

Let me show you what Jesus said concerning the image.

**Matthew 24:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> *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:)*

<sup>16</sup> *Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:*

Satan will see that this image is set up in the Temple so the people will be able to worship the anti-Christ at all times. Let us remember that the anti-Christ is NOT omnipresent. He is not like God in that God is everywhere all the time. The anti-Christ can only be in one place at one time and he will need to rest and continue on his campaign trail. So this image will allow people to continue to worship him while he is away.

**Notice Revelation 13:15a**

Here we see that the False Prophet will give BREATH to the image. That is the meaning of the word "LIFE" here. Now there is much disagreement among teachers here concerning the BREATH given to the image. The question is, "Can Satan give life to this image or are we to understand this as some kind of ANIMATION giving the appearance of life?"

Let me start by saying that the verse tells us he has power to give LIFE to the image. I personally believe God gives him the power to bring this image to life. Some people believe it will be like something that you would see at Disney but people know the difference between the robots and real life. This False Prophet will have power to do amazing things.

Henry Morris has a little different view.

"The word in the Greek is PNEUMA meaning "spirit" or "wind". He says that it is possible that Satan allows one of his fallen angels to possess this image and thus it would be given the appearance of having life.

**Notice Revelation 13:15 again.**

The image will be able to speak and to give the command that all who do not worship the BEAST should be killed.

This is a very significant event! This COMMAND will divide the entire world's population into two groups. Those who are surrendered to the BEAST and those who are followers of Jesus Christ.

II. **The Mark**

**Notice Revelation 13:16-17**

I want you to notice that Satan is no respecter of persons. It does not matter if someone is rich or poor they will all be commanded to receive the Mark of the Beast. Satan does not care about wealth he only desires worship.

There is much confusion concerning this Mark of the Beast so there are some things here that we need to clear up.

It will be used to identify those who are committed to the Beast and those who are in rebellion against the Beast. It will be a Mark that will be used to control the economy of the Tribulation period.

Many today are totally against microchips in credit cards or in anything they have. But the chips that are implanted within people today and the chips in credit cards cannot be the Mark of the Beast. Whatever the Mark of the Beast is it will be the same on everyone.

There will be three options for people when this time comes.

#### **Notice Revelation 13:17**

They can get the MARK of the BEAST, the NAME OF THE BEAST of the NUMBER OF HIS NAME. This will have nothing to do with the microchips that are being implanted within people today and in credit cards because the microchips of today have a person's personal information on. This MARK is not about the individual's personal information it will be about a MARK that is visible that will identify people with their loyalty to the BEAST. This will need to be something that is permanent like a tattoo.

Now it could be a MARK with a bar code that can be scanned or a computer chip that could be scanned. But there is something that would argue against that.

That would be the earthquakes and the meteors that will fall to the earth. All of this will disrupt much of the technology of the Tribulation.

#### **Revelation 6:12-14**

*<sup>12</sup> And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;*

*<sup>13</sup> And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.*

*<sup>14</sup> And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.*

There are also arguments for the MARK being connected to technology.

This would make it so much easier to keep up with everyone and what they were doing.

What people today need to understand is that life for the believers at this time will be extremely difficult. They will not be able to buy food, hold a job or live in a neighborhood. They will need to live in the shadows constantly. Let me show you a few verses to help you to see how difficult life will be.

**Revelation 20:4**

<sup>4</sup> And 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.

**Matthew 10:18-22**

<sup>18</sup> And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

<sup>19</sup> But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

<sup>20</sup> For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

<sup>21</sup> And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

<sup>22</sup> And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Now many will survive but it will not be easy.

**Matthew 25:31-34**

<sup>31</sup> When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

<sup>32</sup> And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

<sup>33</sup> And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

<sup>34</sup> Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

**Conclusion:**

Why would you ever want to take a chance of going into the Tribulation?