

Session Nineteen:

Revelation 13:1-18

“The antichrist And his Global Campaign”

I) Introduction

- A) Receiving sound instruction about the antichrist helps us remove the confusion surrounding him, allowing us to soberly view this great opponent of the human race. The antichrist will be no match for the true Christ of God, but he will be the fiercest enemy humanity has ever encountered.
- 1) **1st John 2:18** *“Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.”*
- B) John the Beloved, the writer of the Revelation is the only Apostle in the New Testament that speaks of the Antichrist. The spirit of the antichrist has appeared many times but there is coming a day when the spirit will give way to a physical man called Antichrist or the Beast.
- 1) **Revelation 12:7-10,11-12,17** *“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon: and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was there a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the **GREAT DRAGON** was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him...for the accuser of our brethren who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony and they did not love their lives to the death...Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time...And the dragon was enraged with the women, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”*
- C) **Revelation 12** closes with the devil being thrown out the heavens to the earth, going forth to make war with both Jewish and Non-Jewish believers in Jesus along with the rest of humanity and **Revelation 13** begins with the antichrist emerging from the sea (**Ephesians 2:2;6:12**).

II) The Incarnation Of The Lawless One (Revelation 13:1-4)

- A) **Revelation 13:1** *“Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.”*
- 1) It’s clear through other passages that this beast John sees ascending from the sea is the antichrist. The antichrist will be both fully human and fully demonized. He is coming up from the sea to symbolize his embodiment of life in this age and the wisdom of this age (**Col. 3**).
1. **James 3:14-15,17** *“But if you have bitter envy and self seeking in your hearts, do no boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom doesn’t no descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic...But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits...”*

2. **2nd Thessalonians 2:3** *“...for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped...”*
- 2) John sees that the beast has seven heads and ten horns which connects him to his father the devil. He is the devil incarnated in a human frame, just like Jesus.
 1. **Revelation 12:3,9** *“And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns...So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the devil and satan...”*
 - 3) The seven heads are seven empires that persecuted Israel in the past and will again partner with the antichrist during his short 7 year campaign. The ten horns are ten kings (kingdoms) that will also partner with the antichrist during this time (**Dan. 7:7,20,24; Rev 17:3, 7, 9-11, 12**).
- B) **Revelation 13:2-3** *“Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.”*
 - 1) John sees the characteristics of the antichrist in three primary facets; **1) Like a leopard**—This is speaking of his swiftness. **2) Like a bear**—This is speaking about his strength (Politically, Economically, Militarily). **3) Like a lion**—This is speaking about his fierceness to devour (**Dan. 7; Joel 1:6-7**).
 - 2) The reason the antichrist is referred to as a beast is because he is the combination of several animals, not just one. There’s nothing like him.
 - 3) The antichrist will be empowered and sent forth by the devil himself who will also vest him with great demonic authority. This demonic empowering will be to send him forth as a mock or counterfeit messiah.
 - 4) Like Jesus Christ, the antichrist will also have a mortal (deadly) wound that will have been healed (a counterfeit resurrection). During his rule on the earth, it will be the first time that two messiah’s will be preached (**Daniel 8:25**).
 - 5) Here’s a short list contrasting Jesus Christ and the antichrist;
 1. Christ comes from above (**Jn. 6:38**) Antichrist ascends from the pit (**Rev. 11:7**)
 2. Christ comes in His father’s name (**Jn. 5:43**) Antichrist comes in his own name (**Jn. 5:43**)
 3. Christ humbled Himself on earth (**Phil. 2:8**) Antichrist exalts himself in his power (**2nd Thess. 2:4**)
 4. Christ was despised and rejected (**Isa. 53:3**) Antichrist will be admired (**Rev. 13:3-4**)
 5. Christ will finally be exalted (**Phil. 2:9**) Antichrist will be cast to hell (**Rev. 19:20**)
 6. Christ came to do His Father’s will (**Jn. 6:38**) Antichrist comes to do his own will (**Dan. 11:36**)
 7. Christ came to save the lost (**Luke 19:10**) Antichrist comes to destroy the lost (**Dan. 8:24**)
 8. Christ is the Good Shepherd (**Jn. 10:1-15**) Antichrist is the false shepherd (**Zech. 11:16**)
 9. Christ is the true Vine (**Jn. 15:1**) Antichrist is the vine of the earth (**Rev. 14:18**)
 10. Christ is the Truth (**Jn. 14:6**) Antichrist is the ultimate liar (**2nd Thess. 2:11**)
 11. Christ is the Man of Sorrows (**Isa. 53:3**) Antichrist is the man of sin (**2nd Thess. 2:3**)
 12. Christ is the 2nd Person of the Holy Trinity Antichrist is the 2nd person of the unholy trinity
 13. Christ has a pure bride, holy and chaste Antichrist has an apostate church/harlot or a whore

C) **Revelation 13:4** *"So they worshipped the dragon (satan) who gave authority to the beast (antichrist); and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"*

- 1) Leading up to the end of this age, and specifically during the reign of the antichrist there will be two houses of prayer colliding on a world stage. Both will have a messiah, both will have ideals, both will have signs and wonders and both will have music.
- 2) Beloved, have you contemplated the majority of the earth openly worshipping satan and a physical, fully demonized man? What will be the result of a demonized human race openly worshipping satan and his son?
- 3) The purpose of the beast is far more than political power and influence, it's to garner the affection of the human heart in worship.

III) The antichrist's Global Persecution (Revelation 13:5-10)

A) **Revelation 13:5-6** *"And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven."*

- 1) The antichrist is first given authority by God and then secondly by his father the devil. Though the first 3 ½ years of his campaign he will introduce a religion of tolerance, we see here that the last 3 ½ years (the great tribulation) he will introduce a religion of intolerance that will be most hostile towards Jews and Christians.
- 2) Although the great tribulation is only 42 months (3 ½ years) this will be the longest season of human history.

B) **Revelation 13:7-8** *"It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."*

- 1) During the antichrist's reign there will be more martyrdom and general bloodshed than in any other time in human history. Empowered by God, the antichrist will trample the nations as he leads the majority of the earth to worship him and him alone.
 1. **Daniel 7:25** *"He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and he shall intended to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time (3 ½ years)."*
- 2) I personally believe that the body of Christ will go through the great tribulation. Which means I don't believe that this word saints means Jewish believers who were converted during the tribulation. Here are four basic reasons;
 1. Firstly, the word saints used here is Strong's Greek word #40 and it's the only word used for saints from **Matthew 27-Revelation 20:9** (NT). It simply means scared, pure, blameless or consecrated. For it to refer to both Jews and Gentiles throughout the whole of the NT and then something different here is terrible Bible interpretation.

2. Secondly, some assume that because the word Church isn't mentioned after **Revelation 3** that it means the Church isn't involved in the tribulation. There are also 6 other epistles where the word Church isn't mentioned (**2nd Timothy, Titus, 1st Peter, 2nd Peter, 2nd John and Jude**).
 3. Thirdly, though the word Church might not be mentioned after **Revelation 3** these words are; *Saints, Souls of those slain for the Word of God, fellow servants, servants of God, a great multitude which no one could number of all nations, tribes—coming up out of the great tribulation, the rest of her offspring who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ, the Saints, Saints, those who follow the Lamb, Saints—those who keep the faith of Jesus, the dead who die in the Lord from now on, those having the victory over the beast-over his image—having the harps of God, they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, she was drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus, those who are with Christ are called, chosen and faithful, you holy apostles and prophets, in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her, praise Him all you who fear Him both small and great, Him who sat on the horse and His army, the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus (Revelation 5:8; 6:9,11; 7:3,9,14a,14b; 12:17; 13:7,10; 14:4,12,13; 15:2; 16:5-6; 17:6,14; 18:20,24; 19:2,5,19;20:4).*
 4. Fourthly, though some have said the Revelation is historical, we have never seen a leader rule with worldwide dominion, being worshipped by the majority of the earth. Those leaders in the past prefigured a meaner, more evil and demonized man but they were not the fulfillment.
- C) **Revelation 13:9-10** *"If anyone has an ear, let him hear. He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and faith of the saints."*
- 1) After hearing about the antichrist's war march we are given a sober exhortation into faith and patience in the midst of certain death. This is a divine pause.
 1. **Revelation 14:12-13** *"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me; write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on..."*
 - 2) Though the day of divine retribution is coming to all those that inflict pain on the ones He loves, it will take endurance to see that day. This is why the strong exhortation to faith in Christ and patience in His timing is given.

IV) The Unholy Trinity (Revelation 13:11-14)

- A) **Revelation 13:11-12** *"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast who's deadly wound was healed."*
- 1) Here, John now has in view the 3rd person of the unholy trinity, the false Prophet. Like the first beast (antichrist) he also comes up from below making clear his earthly/demonic nature.

- 2) In the Holy Trinity God the Father sent forth His Son and the Son sent forth the Spirit. The Spirit bears witness to the Son and the Son bears witness of the Father.
- 3) In the unholy trinity the devil sends forth the antichrist and the antichrist sends forth the false prophet. The false prophet bears witness of the antichrist and the antichrist bears witness of the devil.

1. **Revelation 13:2,4,11,12** *"...The dragon gave him his power, his throne and great authority...so they worshipped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshipped the beast...I saw another beast...who spoke like a dragon...the second beast causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast..."*

- 4) The second beast is referred to as the false prophet in **Revelation 19:20** as both him and the antichrist are captured and thrown into the lake of fire after Jesus' return to the earth.
- 5) It will take a trained ear in this hour because what we see won't be what we get. The false prophet looks like a lamb, but he speaks like a dragon (**Genesis 27:20-23; John 10**).
- 6) The false prophet will even be preaching the resurrection from the dead and pointing to a literal, physical man who has come back from death.

B) **Revelation 13:13-14** *"He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived."*

- 1) During this time that two resurrections are being preached both of them will be attested to by signs and wonders. It will take a lifestyle of prayer and fasting, and a fierce allegiance to Jesus in order to stand against this great deception.
- 2) It's in this hour that God will require those that love Him to not shrink back in fear, but to be filled with faith and speak out against this unholy trinity and their activity in the earth.

V) The antichrist's Threefold Global Campaign (Revelation 13:15-18)

A) **Revelation 13:15-17** *"He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the number the name of the beast, or the number of his name."*

- 1) It's here that we now clearly see the antichrist's threefold global campaign to be worshipped as God throughout all the earth.
- 2) According to the timeline of Bible prophecy regarding the final 7 years of tribulation, this is what begins the great tribulation, or the final 3 ½ years. It's called the "Abomination of desolation."
 1. **Matthew 24:15** *"Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand)..."*
- 3) It's better said "the abomination that leads to desolation."

- 4) It's at this time that the antichrist will replace the **Revelation 17 (Harlot Babylon)** religion of tolerance with his religion of intolerance and this will be enforced by the penalty of death for all who refuse it.
 1. **2nd Thessalonians 2:3-4** *"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless first the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."*
 - 5) The antichrist's kingdom at this time will comprise three primary elements;
 1. **Spiritual** = *"He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not **WORSHIP** the image of the beast to be killed."*
 - (a) The antichrist won't be satisfied until the nations worship him as God but to garner to worship of the nations he will have to enforce it at the penalty of death.
 2. **Political** = *"He **CAUSES** all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads..."*
 - (a) The antichrist won't be able to pull off global worship without a strong political system in place where there is trust in him and his ability to lead. Beloved, this is a political leader who's moving in signs and wonders and has risen from the dead.
 3. **Financial** = *"...and that no one may **BUY** or **SELL** except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."*
 - (a) The antichrist will tie up all the food and general commerce in connection to the worship of him. This alone will cause multitudes to join his system and pledge their allegiance to him sealing their fate in the lake of fire.
 - 6) Beloved, this threefold system is a mirror of what Jesus is going to set up during the 1,000 year reign. One Man will have all the **WORSHIP**—*spiritual*, all the **WISDOM**—*political* and all the **WEALTH**—*financial*.
- B) **Revelation 13:18** *"Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: his number is 666."*
- 1) Regarding the mark of the beast, I have no special insight or spiritual revelation. All I know is that you won't receive this mark by accident, but by pledging your allegiance to the antichrist by worshipping him as your god.