

## Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #27 | Revelation 13:11-18 | The Antichrist, Part 3

### Revelation 13:11-13 | The False Prophet and His Miracles

- John now sees **another beast** (v. 11). In Revelation 16:13, this second beast is called the **false prophet**.
- John uses the word the Greek ἄλλος (allos), "another of the same kind," rather than *heteros*, "another of a different kind" to describe this second beast.
- This beast comes **up out of the earth**, while the previous beast came **up out of the sea** (v. 1).
  - There is some grammatical evidence that **sea** could refer to "the nations" and **earth** could be translated as *land* and refer to the land of Israel.
  - I believe that the Antichrist is a Jew that comes from the Assyrian (Seleucid) region of the former Greek empire, possibly headquartered politically in Pergamum, Turkey. The false prophet could be directly from *the land* and serving out of Jerusalem.
- The meaning of the two horns is not as clear as the 10 of the first beast. However, two is typically the number of *witness* or *testimony* in the Bible, and this beast comes to give *witness* to the first beast. This beast appears to be the religious-like prophet of the political beast. His speech is "dragon-like," indicating its source.
- This beast completes the "unholy trinity" of the Anti-God, Anti-Christ, and Anti-Spirit.
- The major task of the false prophet is to **cause the earth (or the land) and them that dwell therein to worship the first beast**. There are a number of ways the false prophet causes the people to do this:
  - First, keep in mind that people *want to worship*. It is part of our DNA.
  - Second, this beast **doeth great wonders** that wow the people, confirming (at least in their mind) that the beast is worthy of worship.
    - The nature or manner of these **great wonders** is not of tremendous importance. Are they *supernatural* or simply a keen understanding of the *natural*? It is largely irrelevant. The people take them as *proof*.
    - Christians should be largely *unimpressed* with the miraculous. The Bible is filled with pagans who performed miracles (the wonder-workers of Egypt, Jannes and Jambres, Simon the Sorcerer, etc).

### Revelation 13:14-15 | The Worship of the Beast

- The miracles become the *deceptive* tool to sway people to worship the beast. The Greek word πλάνος [*planos*] is the root of our English word *planets*, because the planets "wander" through space. The root is to *wander* or *rove*.
- The false prophet forces the creation of **an image to the beast** which must be worshiped.
  - While the grammar allows for a singular image, it does not require such.
  - It could be that the false prophet requires *each individual* to make an image and worship it.
- The image "comes to life" and becomes a reporting tool to discover who is *not worshiping* the beast. Those who do not worship will **be killed**. Since no faithful Jew would make a "graven image," nor bow down to one, many Jews will be killed.

### Revelation 13:16-18 | The Mark of the Beast

- A **mark** of some kind is required in order to participate in the *one world economy*.
- Several passages speak to the importance of *not* receiving this mark: Revelation 15:2, 16:2, 19:20, 20:4.
- This sheds light on the statement of Jesus in Matt 19:23-24 about the challenge for a rich man to enter the Kingdom. In order to maintain their wealth, they will be forced into receiving the mark of the beast...and nobody with this mark will enter the Kingdom. It literally becomes impossible for a person with the mark to enter the Kingdom.
- The beast has a **mark** and a **name** and a **number** (v. 17). The number is: 666.
  - The command to **count** indicates that the mark will be *calculable*. The same word is used (in the present tense) in Luke 14:28. Here it is used in the aorist tense, giving indication that a person cannot calculate the meaning *today*, but at a point in time *in the future* it will be possible.
  - The number six is Biblically the number of *man*. This is six *fully intensified*. In some manner, it shows that the Antichrist is *man without God*.

### A word about economic conformity

- Our world is dangerously close to accommodating a 666 system.
- A *cashless* society is one requirement for such a system.
- A *government-approved consumer* is another requirement.
- Within a matter of *months* our own government could create all that is necessary for a totally *governmentally controlled economy*.