

Anti-Christ of Revelation (His Mark) – II

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A previous message on this subject told of a beast that is to appear in the closing days of the Gospel Age that is described in the Bible, (and who is otherwise known as the Anti-Christ), whose rise to power and activities connected to his reign, will mark the close of the times of the Gentiles. A vision of this beast to come was given to a wicked emperor (Nebuchadnezzar), which was interpreted to him by Daniel the prophet. It was then repeated later in another vision to the prophet Daniel, but was depicted in very different figures, but it gave us an idea of the terrible wickedness and depravity of the Gentile world in the closing days of the Gospel Age (or the end of the times of the Gentiles). The Anti-Christ's kingdom will have absolute control of the sinful world at that time but is to be destroyed by God's power at the second coming of Christ, (as described Rev.19).

In (Rev.12:3) this beast appeared as a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his head.. [the Bible refers to the devil as the dragon (or ancient serpent). This makes it very plain that the Gentile Age will be under the complete control of Satan himself (in a far worse form than before if that were possible).

In chapter 17, apostle John was given an interpretation of this beast and other significant things connected with his rise to power. John was also shown a woman sitting on this beast, [probably depicting the Roman Catholic Church (as was explained), as she is described as THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.(meaning all the false religions of the earth) [spiritually unfaithful], as they teach and approve of idols and false places of trust.]

(To continue with the message) ...

The angel then described the seven heads, which have two most important meanings. First of all, the seven heads represent seven mountains on which the woman sits. As far as we can

understand it (the late Pastor said), this would classify the woman as the Roman Catholic Church, for Rome has been known as the seven-hilled city.

Therefore, the Roman Catholic Church can be labeled as the mother of all the hopelessly deceived and futile Protestant religions and denominations of the world. She is also the mother of all the abominations of the earth. (Anyone with any spiritual light and understanding of God's Word and His Truth, could easily accept this revelation concerning the Roman Catholic Church and her Protestant daughter churches [most of whom along with the Catholic Church are saying Lord, Lord, while they teach and approve of their members putting trust in idols and false places of trust of many types].

Aside from being described as the seven mountains on which the woman sits,... the other great significance of the seven heads is that they represent Roman emperors, five of them had already died by that time, and one was reigning at the time the Revelation was given to John. Another emperor was to follow, and that would make up the seven kings.

Then an eighth king would follow later (in the end-times), who would be the anti-christ (or the beast described in the Revelation). He is to be a complete tool of Satan to fulfill his will during his time of reign. He was one of the seven emperors (and really one of the five), because it is said, that he had lived, was going to live again, and go back into perdition again. (that means go to the pit (of Satan) or hell). The angel said (vs.11) "And the beast that was, and is not,... is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition."

God is trying to make it plain and clear to us, that just as Jesus Christ was God's incarnated Son, so the devil is going to cause the spirit of one of the dead Roman emperors to take possession of a man, and to reign and rule for Satan on this earth for three years and a half, just the amount of time that Jesus Christ represented His Father here on earth. That is why he (that beast to come) is called the Anti-Christ.

The Jewish nation closed their times with rejecting the Christ of God by murdering Him. The Gentiles will go a big step further, as they will not only reject the Christ of God, [he has already been taken out of public school classrooms, which has led to academic failure and chaos of most school systems, and people are ridiculed, chastised, and

punished at times, for even mentioning the name of Jesus in public arenas],...but they will also accept, worship, and trust in the Anti-Christ of the devil. [The Anti-Christ of the devil will force people to wear his mark in order to buy or sell food and other things, or they will lose their life for disobeying his laws]. Jesus predicted (John 5:43) "I am come in my Father's Name, and ye receive me not; if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."

(Rev. 17) also gives a description of the ten horns shown on the beast who rose out of the sea. They represent ten kings that have not yet received a kingdom but will receive power as kings for one hour along with the beast (the Anti-Christ) (or during part of his reign). (vs 12-13) "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast." [A European league of nations has been in the making for many years, but it is still being weeded out (so to speak), so that the predicted ten kingdoms will be in place for the rise of the Anti-Christ.]

In other words (the late Pastor explained), "the restored Roman Empire is to take the form of a ten-kingdom confederacy with ten kings under the rule of the Anti-Christ, who will be the full representative and follower of Satan himself."

In the 16th verse, we are told that these ten kings come to hate the woman that was shown, "sitting on the scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns, the mother of harlots, and having a names written on her forehead "HE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH". Then ten kings were shown destroying the woman and burning her with fire, (as they also turn their kingdoms over to the horrible beast of Revelation). (vs 16-18) "And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

If this woman on the beast represents the Roman Catholic Church (which seems very probable), there have already been significant

forecasts of her imminent destruction, but on a smaller scale (the Pastor said). That church has had problems in Russia and Russian occupied territories; also, in Italy which is the seat of the Roman Catholic Church. [Possibly, Italy will not be one of those ten kingdoms, or it will merge with or be taken over by another of the kingdoms.] Those problems then [and current day problems disgracing the Catholic Church] would be a small foretaste of her complete destruction during reign of the ten kings mentioned who will come to hate her, but can be understood that it will be well-deserved because of her spiritual adultery and representing false religions on the earth (and noted as mother of harlots and "of the abominations of the earth").

During the early part of the reign of the Anti-Christ (the beast that rose out of the sea), .. another beast (a second one) will appear and comes up out of the earth. "He had two horns and spoke like as a dragon." This would seem to mean that he represents a false prophet or the head of some false religion that looked good on the outside but was under the full control of Satan on the inside.

The actions of this second beast would further confirm that view or opinion, because the Bible says, that he does great wonders, even makes fire come down from Heaven onto the earth in the sight of men. He deceives those who dwell on the earth by the miracles that he performs. He even causes them to make an image (statue) of the first beast and was then able to give breath to the image of the beast and to make it talk; (probably through a presence of a demon-spirit).

(Rev. 13:11-15 "Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon." [Even today, leading up to the time of the end, many world leaders speak like devils, a foretaste of what will come.] (vs. continues) "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, whose deadly wound was healed. 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. 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."

Anyone who will not trust in or worship this image of the beast (is to be killed). This would mean the forming of a world-wide union (the late Pastor supposed), for it contains the same principles that are involved in labor unions today, only on a much larger scale, and with much greater penalties.

Everyone is compelled to join this union by receiving a mark in their right hand or in their forehead. [There is already talk of imbedding computerized identity chips in the flesh of people.]

No one can buy or sell except they have this mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

(In these verses given) where he curtain is drawn aside to reveal to us the terrible wickedness and the power that is back of the beast described in chapter 13, we are then told that this number of the beast, is the number of a man, which, of course, was the Anti-Christ, and that his number is '666'. (Rev. 13:16-18) "He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark in their right hand or in their foreheads, 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. 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."

This means that if we would take the letters of his name (according to Roman notation) and added them up, they would total exactly 666. In Roman notations the letter I means a numeral 1, V means 5, L means 50, C means 100, D means 500, and M 1000. If one were to take those letters from the Anti-Christ's name, sort them out, and calculate them according to the Roman numeral method, they total 666 (the number that represents his name).

The same principal of people being under the control of the number of the Anti-Christ (or the mark of the beast) during the great tribulation, is the same principle involved with present day labor unions and for many, many years past. They do their utmost, backed up by the political leaders in power, to unionize every workshop and working individual that they possibly can. They also make

closed shops, where the penalty is that if one does not join the union and have a union card, they cannot work there to earn a living.

This is of course a serious penalty, and yet to accept the mark of the beast (mentioned in Rev. 13), would be far more serious. The reason for this is that the penalty is much greater for not going along with the mark of the beast. God's Word says that whoever did not join (the worldwide union under the Anti-Christ) would not only be unable to buy or sell, but they were to be killed. To not be able to buy or sell and then be killed, is a much worse penalty than not being able to work in a labor union's closed shop.

Therefore, if one would disobey God's Word, and they would accept and trust in this plan of Satan to deceive people (represented by the labor unions for a much less penalty), they would certainly prove their rank disloyalty to God and His Word and Truth (and with far less excuse).

In (Rev. 14) God plainly tells us, that anyone who trusts in this beast to come, joins his union, or has his mark in or on their hand or forehead, will go to the Lake of Fire and be tormented forever and ever. (Vs 9-11) Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark in or on his forehead or in his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

A similar principal of misplaced trust on man is involved with joining groups in savings and rewards clubs, purchasing club plans, etc... to use their cards and numbers or marks to make purchases (being offered by many companies and businesses in this day), rather than keeping a full trust centered on God to provide for things as and when needed. These plans being offered to people seem to be forerunners to decisions that will have to be made by everyone to keep their trust centered on God when the Anti-Christ's world-wide union is put in place to deceive people.

The same principal was involved in the trial the Hebrew children had to meet in Babylon, when

they were to be killed in a fiery furnace for refusing to bow to emperor Nebuchadnezzar's image, (rather, that they would trust in the true and ever-living God in Heaven) (of whom the emperor knew nothing about). The way the Hebrew children met that effort of Satan to corrupt their faith on God, (is an exact example for every true child of God today). They flatly refused to trust in that image (a false place of trust that Satan used to deceive people in that day, and to tempt God's children of true believers to forsake God) and, to go to the Lake of Fire and eternal torment) (because of a death penalty for anyone not trusting in Nebuchadnezzar's image).

When the emperor gave them a second chance to bow to the image he set up to deceive them with a false place of trust, they told him in plain language that the God they served was able to deliver them and He would,... BUT IF NOT, they would neither bow down to, trust, nor worship the god he had set up.

They were thrown into a fiery furnace by the strongest men in the army, a furnace so hot that it killed the men who threw them in. But the Hebrew children walked around in the furnace in perfect peace, (and came out without the smell of fire on them.)

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www.fcgchurch.org

PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

fcgchurch1@gmail.com

S373R 0717 24W

The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia

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Some main points:

A worsening spiritual condition in the world with each passing day, increased persecution of Christian based Churches worldwide, and other events taking place in the world, seem to indicate that some end times happenings could take place soon as predicted in prophecy of Scripture. Therefore, it is possible that many who are living at the present time, may live to see the rise of this beast yet to come. (otherwise known as the Anti-Christ).

It is necessary for a true child of God to have a good understanding of the Scriptures concerning events connected with the rise and reign of the anti-Christ, (referred to as the beast in the book of Revelation), as well as the significance of a mark connected to his name and number.

Then, that the 'mark' or 'number' of this beast can be connected to many types or plans that are in use in the world today, and that many people accept and trust on, because Satan makes those plans so deceptive and enticing for people to turn to instead of trust on God to provide.

This evening's message describes in more detail from Scripture, a characterization of a 'wild beast' that is to rise to power (depicting a 'ruthless ruler' in the spirit of a previous Roman emperor). As well as the significance of this red dragon beast that was shown to John (with seven heads and ten horns which indicate a seven-hilled city) (and a woman shown sitting on those seven hills), who is described as the 'mother of the abominations of the earth'.

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