

“The Beast Coming Up Out of the Earth”
Revelation 13:11-18

Last Sunday: A Call for the Endurance and Faith of the Saints

Today: The Beast Coming Up Out of the Earth

OUTLINE

- 13:11-12, Description of the Beast Coming Out of the Earth
- 13:13-17, Power and Activity of the Second Beast (False Prophet)
- 13:18, A Message for the Last Generation?

The warning of last Sunday:

2 Thess. 2:1-4, “Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being ***gathered together to him***, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that ***the day of the Lord has come***. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day ***will not come, unless 1)*** the rebellion comes first, and ***2)*** the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.”

13:11/ “He had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon...”

- Tertullian: “The devil’s aim is to destroy truth by defending it.”
- John Stott: “Every heresy is due to an overemphasis upon some truth, without allowing other truths to qualify and balance it.”
 - Jn. 6:47, “He who believes has eternal life.” This ***can*** lead to Libertinism.
 - Jam. 2:26, “Faith without works is dead.” This ***can*** lead to Legalism.

13:14/ “He deceives...”

- Can a believer fall prey to false teaching? YES! 2 Cor. 11:3, “I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.”
- Can a true believer leave the faith? NO! 1 Jn. 2:19, “They went out from us, but they were ***not really*** of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.”

13:15/ What is the beast coming up out of the earth and the image of the beast?

1. Preterist (***past***):
 - a. False Prophet: worship of Caesar coming up out of the earth (first century Israel)
 - b. The image of the beast: the Jews have rejected Jesus (their true messiah) and have instead chosen Roman authority as their messiah (Jn. 19:15).

2. Historicist (timeline):
 - a. False Prophet: priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church; the pope is the first beast.
 - b. The image of the beast: when the church does the bidding of the state (fusion)
3. Idealist (spiritual):
 - a. False Prophet: society's false religion and false philosophy
 - b. The image of the beast: Roman deputies who built images of Domitian next to the altar of the emperor; thus the state becomes the god.
4. Futurist (future):
 - a. False Prophet: religious leader of the false religion of the Antichrist. This beast has two horns which makes him less powerful than the beast of the sea. Maybe Jewish?
 - b. The image of the beast: an image with the appearance of life, or real life?

13:18/ What is the meaning of the mark of the beast and the number 666?

1. Preterist (past):
 - a. The mark: a way to deprive believers of the ability to live
 - b. 666: the Hebrew form of "Caesar Nero"
2. Historicist (timeline):
 - a. The mark: one who is in league with Latins (Romans), especially the pope
 - b. 666: "Lateinos," meaning Latins (Greek word for Latin)
3. Idealist (spiritual):
 - a. The mark: As believers receive the invisible seal of the Holy Spirit and Christ's name on their foreheads (14:1), we are owned by the Lord, as they are owned by the beast.
 - b. 666: Each digit falls short of the number of perfection: 7. It just means, "the beast."
4. Futurist (future):
 - a. The mark: a tattoo or implanted computer chip? Whether visible or invisible, it is a sign of obedience, protection, and loyalty to the beast.
 - b. 666: The practice of gematria

Gematria – An alphanumeric numerology system, assigning a set number value to each letter of the alphabet

The Satanic Trinity is now complete:

- The Father: Gives authority to the Son, and He rules over all.
 - *The Devil* gives authority to the Antichrist, and he rules over all.
- The Son: Does what His Father tells him (Jn. 14:31). He dies and comes back to life.
 - *The Antichrist* does what his father tells him. He "dies" and comes back to life.
- The Holy Spirit: Draws people not to Himself but to Christ. In Acts, He performs signs and wonders to bring people to the Messiah.
 - *The False Prophet* draws people not to himself but to the Antichrist. He performs signs and wonders to bring people to the "Messiah."