

THE FALSE PROPHET REVELATION 13:11-18

While Revelation 13:1-10 reveals the great political leader during the tribulation period, 13:11-18 reveals the great religious leader of that time. The two of them along with Satan make up the Satanic trinity. This second beast of Revelation is also known as the false prophet (Rev. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10). This diabolical religious leader will deceive multitudes and cause them to worship the first beast.

I. THE APPEARANCE OF THE BEAST. 13:11-12.

A. The Origin of the Beast.

1. Appears from the land in contrast to the appearance of the first beast from the sea. 13:1.
2. Some see the land as representing Israel.
3. Some see the land as denoting the entire earth.

B. The Description of the Beast.

1. His is compared to a lamb.
 - a. This is an attempt to mimic Jesus Christ. John 1:29.
 - b. The two horns contrast with the ten horns of the first beast. 13:1.
2. He is compared to a dragon.
 - a. This links him with Satan. Rev. 12:9.
 - b. This reveals his deceptive powers. Gen. 3:1.
3. He exercises great authority.
4. He causes those of the earth to worship the first beast.

II. THE MIRACLES OF THE BEAST. 13:13-15.

A. The Description of the Miracles.

1. They are great miracles. 13:13; Matt. 24:24.
2. They involve fire from heaven. 13:13. 1 Kings 18:38; Rev. 11:5.
3. They include giving the appearance of life to the image of the beast. 13:14.
* This will be more than a talking image that can be explained by technology. *

B. The Purpose of the Miracles.

1. To deceive mankind. 13:14. Cp. 2 Thess. 2:9.
2. To cause man to worship the first beast. 13:15.
 - a. This is an imitation of the miracles of Christ that were signs to point us to faith in him. John 20:31.
 - b. This worship of the first beast is through deception and coercion.
* True Christianity is a religion of truth and persuasion. *
 - c. The image could be placed in the Jerusalem temple for worship when the antichrist is not there. See 2 Thess. 2:4.

III. THE MARK OF THE BEAST. 13:16-18.

A. The Identification of the Mark. 13:16.

* The mark is located in either the right hand or forehead. In ancient Rome soldiers and slaves often had a symbol or brand. Some of the ancient cults had tattoos that identified the members with the god they served. *

B. The Purpose of the Mark.

1. To acknowledge allegiance to the beast.
2. To determine who is allowed to buy or sell.

C. The Meaning of the Mark.

1. Six is the number of man in the Scripture.
2. Seven is the number of God.
3. The antichrist claims to be God, but he will only be a man.
4. While it is likely that the name of the antichrist will be identified by 666 it is fruitless to speculate about what will not be revealed until after the rapture.

