

“The Unholy Trinity & the Mark of the Beast” (Revelation 13)

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Intro: As we come to Rev.13, we are in the last half of the seven year period known as The Great Tribulation...

v.1a The dragon (Rev.20:1-2); The sea (Rev.17:15)

v.1b The beast out of the sea (Rev.17:12; Dan.7:17, 19, 23-24); The blasphemous names refers to these leaders desire to be “gods” in this world; This is a revived Roman empire. Roman leaders of the past were of the same character as these future leaders; Augustus proclaimed "divius" = one like the gods; Nero on his coins referred to as "the saviour of the world;" Domitian addressed as "our Lord and God." In Acts 12 Herod addresses the crowd and they say, “This is the voice of a god and not a man.” In that situation, because he did not give praise to God, God struck him down.

v.2a See Daniel 7:1-7

* Lion with wings of an eagle = Babylon

- The lion is king of the beasts and the eagle is king of the fowls, signifying Babylon’s superiority over other nations in her day.

- Winged lions were practically the national symbol of ancient Babylon. Sculptures of huge wooden lions stood at the entrance of their palaces.

- Wings torn off, given the heart of a man; God humbling Neb; His image of gold (viewed himself as a god)

- Dan.4: 30 he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"

* The bear = Medo-Persia

- Raised on one of its sides, signifying Persia’s dominance of the Medes.

- Three ribs in its mouth; Three major conquests: Lydian empire in Asia Minor (546 B.C.), The Chaldean Empire (539 B.C.), and the Egyptian Empire (525 B.C.)

- Just as a bear is more massive but slower moving than a lion, so Medo-Persia became larger than Babylon as a kingdom but slower in conquest; Medo-Persia’s army was also huge but slower in movement.

- It was told, “Get up and eat your fill of flesh,” which speaks of Medo-Persia’s insatiable desire to conquer MORE!

* The leopard = Greece

- Two wings on the lion, but four on the leopard. The leopard is faster, signifying Greece's incredibly swift conquests. Under Alexander the Great, Greece conquered the known world faster than any ancient power! In eight years they conquered more than 11,000 miles of territory, from Greece in the west to India in the east.
- After the death of Alexander, the kingdom was divided into four parts ruled by four generals.

* Note: Daniel saw the lion first and the leopard last. John sees just the reverse. Daniel was looking ahead in history, John is looking back.

* See Daniel 7:7 This fourth beast is the same as the one we are reading about in Rev.13. This unidentified beast resembles ancient Rome, but cannot be ancient Rome because it emerges just before the second coming of Jesus Christ.

- Terrifying, frightening, very powerful!
- Large iron teeth; It was Rome that developed iron weaponry

v.2b Satan is the god of this world; In Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, Satan offers him all the kingdoms of this world. This would not have been a temptation if Satan could not have delivered. In a future day, Satan will give power to a confederation of ten kings who will for a brief period of time rule the world.

v.3 A man we know as the antichrist will become the head of this ten nation revived Roman empire; see Rev.17:11; Dan.7:24. After he comes to power, he is injured, and the injury appears to be fatal. This is a false resurrection. Antichrist means against or "in place of."

v.4 See Dan.11:38-39; 7:23; People are not knowingly worshipping Satan, they are deceived. More on that in a bit.

vv.5-6 See II Thess.2:4a; Dan.7:8, 11a, 25; 11:36

vv.7-10 For three and a half years antichrist will rule the world, and anyone who opposes or refuses to submit to him will suffer the consequences. See also Dan.7:25b. These will be difficult days for the remnant that God saves out of this awful time.

v.11 This beast comes out of the earth because he is a single person, not a confederation of nations. This is the false prophet (Rev.19:20). He is a deceiver (horns like a lamb but spoke like a dragon).

v.12 The job of the false prophet is to glorify the antichrist, and the false resurrection helps him to get the job done.

vv.13-14a See II Thess.2:9-10

vv.14b-15 The image that could speak is still a bit of a mystery, we are not given details of exactly what this looks like and how it works.

Let's pause and notice something quite interesting. What we have here is The Unholy Trinity:

Dragon/Devil = The Father
Antichrist = The Son/Christ
False Prophet = The Holy Spirit

vv.16-17 Latest technology for this mark?

v.18 The meaning of this number has been discussed more than any other part of the book of Revelation. Hebrew and Greek languages did assign numerical values to numbers. Some have applied these numerical values to Nero, because the Greek letters of his name represent numbers that total 666. The number continues to be linked with various world leaders (Hillary Clinton, etc.), institutions, and types of economic transactions.

I have heard people over the years deeply concerned about this mark of the beast, and being able to identify it so that they will not receive it unknowingly. Some have noticed that they had three six's in their driver's license number, or in their phone number, or their address.

Seven = God's Number; Perfection/Completion
Six = Man's Number; Created on Sixth Day

Daniel 7 & Revelation = Beasts
Daniel 2 = Enormous, Awesome Statue of a MAN

One reflects God's perspective, and the other man's perspective.

Could it be that the number 666 represents the unholy trinity, and in that the ultimate man can accomplish inspired and empowered by Satan?

See Daniel 2:31-45

- * Gold head = Babylon/Nebuchadnezzar (605-562 B.C.)
 - Marduk (chief Babylonian god) called "god of gold"
 - Babylon used gold extensively in its buildings, images and shrines.
- * Silver chest and arms = Medo Persia (conquered Babylon in 539 B.C.)
 - Two peoples forming one great power
 - Silver the standard of value and medium of exchange
- * Bronze belly and thighs = Greece (conquered Medo Persia in 331 B.C.)
 - Kingdom was divided after the death of Alexander the Great; only two divisions played an important role in history (Syria and Egypt).
- * Iron legs = Resembles ancient Rome (conquered Medo Persia in 146 B.C.)
 - Roman empire divided politically – Western Empire with capital at Rome and Eastern Empire with capital at Constantinople.
 - Iron weaponry (crushes gold, silver and bronze)
 - Rome was never conquered, but rather died from within.

Just as in Daniel 7, this fourth kingdom in Daniel 2 is not ancient Rome. We know that by reading Dan.2:44-45. This final confederation of nations will have military strength unrivaled by any army in history, be led by the antichrist, who is inspired and empowered by Satan himself. He will deceive the world by means of a false resurrection, as well as a false prophet who performs counterfeit signs and wonders. The false prophet will set up an image of antichrist and force people to worship the image or be killed. He will also require everyone to receive a mark on their right hand or forehead in order to be able to buy and sell. We call this “the mark of the beast.”

Note: It is not the mark that seals people’s fate. The mark only confirms what was already in their hearts. They were already worshipping the beast, deceived by the dragon, caught up in this present world system, and bowing to the god of this world.

The truth is, all of us are marked men. We either have the mark of salvation or the mark of Satan.

CONCLUSION

See Daniel 3:1-18; The god of this world beckons us to bow. How do I know if I have bowed to the god of this world?

Do I love this present world?

I John 2:15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Have I been born again?

Ephesians 1:13-14 And you were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were **marked** in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our Inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of his glory.

Eph. 2:1-3 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. **All of us lived among them at one time...**

II Tim.2:25-26 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and **escape the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.**

John 8:44 - You are of your father the devil...