

The Other Beast (taught by Dick Button)

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Revelation: How It All Ends

By Various Speakers

Bible Text: Revelation 13:11-18

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Our passage is verses in chapter 13, verses 11-18. It's of the second beast and it's relative to the beast or a beast from verse 1 which is the first beast, however, there are no previous scriptural references, at least that I could find or I could find any reference to, to the second beast in and of himself. He may be embedded as part of the visions that we see from Daniel or from other passages but one thing we know, he is an antichrist, probably the anti-Holy Spirit, and we'll talk about him here in a minute. But anyone claiming to be Christ is an antichrist. Jesus said there would be many.

If you want to continue to hold your thumb in Revelation, we're going to skip back to the book of Matthew 24 and this is Jesus speaking to his disciples who came to him and asked him questions. Starting with verse 3, he says, "As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?' And Jesus answered and said to them, 'See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, "I am the Christ," and will mislead many.'" It says "many will come in my name." Then in verse 11, it says, "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many." Verses 23 and 24, "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect."

I'm going to go back over as we get into the passage that we're going to be looking at specifically today. Actually, I'm going to be dealing with most of chapter 13 which means that we're going to touch on some of the things that Pastor Bill dealt with last week as well and I'm going to be trying not to re-teach anything that he's already taught but probably highlighting some things that I think are pertinent to knowing this person that is the beast at the last part of this chapter. Back in Revelation 13 and from several commentaries on this passage, it has been suggested and I concur that these three figures are the anti-Trinity. They are imitating the divine Trinity. The dragon that we've already looked at which is who? Satan. And the first beast that we see was – last week we said he was who? He's an antichrist or the antichrist. Probably, Satan trying to take the place of God the Father and the first beast that we saw assumes the role of Jesus Christ and we'll talk about that in a little bit and the second beast has a role similar to that of the Holy

Spirit. The Holy Spirit today as we would look at the passages of Scripture, his primary role is to draw men to Christ and then, of course, to comfort those that are in Christ.

As we've been learning under Pastor Bill and Pastor Shawn's teaching for months if you've been around, when we look at the Old Testament and the prophets in the Old Testament throughout all of the Scripture, it all points to Jesus Christ and so here we have this beast who I believe is a false prophet. His role is going to be to point people to the false Christ or the antichrist. Pastor Bill related last week the parallels between the beast being mortally wounded and revived by the dragon and is similar to Jesus being crucified and raised from the dead. Now, I haven't discussed this with him so what I'm going to say and the thoughts that I'm sharing are my positions only and then he can holler up from the back there but if we compare the passage that we're looking at in chapter 13, verses 3 and following, it says,

“3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking...”

I won't go on at this point. I'll have some other comments in a minute but when we look at this passage in several different translations, even in the King James, it says “as it were wounded to death.” One of the other translations says “or seemed to have been slain or wounded and the wound was healed.” This is where I'm going to interject some of my thoughts and I don't know if Pastor Bill disagrees with this or agrees but Satan does not have the authority to provide life to anyone who is dead. Only God can provide life. Hebrews 9 in the ESV says, “And just as it is appointed for man to die once and after this comes the judgment.” If this beast and I believe this beast that we're talking about is a real person. I don't know who he is or I don't know when he's revealed. If we're getting close to the end times, within maybe my generation, the end of my generation or the next generation and obviously there are some of our younger class members here that, God willing, could be around for another 60 years or so, very possibly see this person come into power and if he does, that means he's probably alive during our lifetime or their lifetime and maybe even a world figure. But that person is a real person and either God grants Satan the power to bring this mortally wounded and when I say mortally, either a dead person back to life, only God could allow Satan to do that or to let the dragon have the appearance that he's doing this or and this is my postulation, my assumption is that the wording implies that the beast is wounded and appears to be dead and the wound is healed by the dragon. My assumption is that this is an appearance; the beast that was slain has the appearance of being dead. It would almost be kind of like the coming true of what we hear today about people trying to claim that Jesus Christ was just in a swoon when he was put in the tomb and that somehow when he lay in that cold tomb and kind of got revived with a little bit of cold refrigeration or something, that kind of thing and then came back to life, we know that that is not true because of so many truths that we see in the Scripture and from the fact that the Jewish leaders went to Pilate and the leaders and said, “We want you and the soldiers, we want you to tell the story.” They already knew

that Jesus was raised from the dead and so just the fact that they were trying to get others to imply that this was a swoon or a stolen body or whatever, that it's proof in my mind that they were trying to cover something up that they didn't want people to know the truth. Now we have the possibility that this one is actually going through that process where he looks like he's dead. I don't want to dwell on that real long, that's not the main point here.

Notice in verse 4, "the people of the earth worshiped the dragon because of the authority that he gave to the beast." The beast comes back to life or revives or becomes an imitator of Jesus Christ in a sense, being revived and coming to and it's like, wow. They recognize that it was the beast or the dragon that did it. It gives credence to the...it says in verse 3 this gives him great power and his throne great authority so the fact that he has set up or established a kingdom which is the throne there is to manage a kingdom and so the kingdom and the throne gets its authority and its power from the dragon and I believe from the appearance or the actual raising from the dead this person who is called the beast. Verse 4 says that they worshiped the dragon and they were not only worshiping the beast, we'll see later that this antichrist is worshiped but also they are worshiping that person, the dragon who gives him the power and the authority.

Satan has been desiring worship ever since he lifted himself up with pride and tried to be like God and I think Pastor may have alluded to that or said that in so many words last week that here we have Satan now seemingly he has obtained his goal. I really believe that he will have deceived himself by this time when we see this event happening whether we are personally seeing it from this vantage point or from heaven's vantage point, I believe Satan has convinced himself, deceived himself into believing that just because the masses of people of the whole world are worshiping him, he will have wrested the authority away from God. We see this kind of thinking even in our world today. Just because the poll numbers say that such-and-such a thing and I'd better be careful about the example I had in mind because I might get in trouble but there is the hot topic today of homosexuality. The polls and the people that are publishing the polls, there has been some talk about those that are pro-LBGT. They have done many of their own polls and they pick particular groups of people that give them the results they want and then they publish this and that by publishing it and saying X amount of people or 80% of these people or whatever, this must be the way we need to go. This is now acceptable because everybody believes it. I think that's possibly what we're going to be...Satan can't have power except that God gives it to him but he's working on his own. The dragon is doing on his own power trying to build himself up, lift himself up to be in the place of God and I think at this point, he has succeeded to the level that the world is worshiping the beast, worshiping Satan and he thinks that as though getting allegiance from everyone by popular vote, that God has succeeded his authority over the planet and over the world and the universe. Remember, the end of the story is that he's wrong. He's going to be out of it before too long.

Turn back to Revelation 4 and we see throughout this, I'm not going to read this passage but if you look down through here, this is John speaking of looking at heaven and we see that the elders, the creatures of heaven, the four living creatures were praising God. We

were looking at a glorious location. Heaven is something beyond compare. There are other passages when we look and it says that there was an appearance like a rainbow around the throne, there was jasper stone and sardis appearing of the one sitting on the throne. We read other places where the New Jerusalem, just glory beyond our comprehension. I believe John couldn't find words to write about it. Then we see the elders praising God and we see the living creatures praising God. The verse that many of us, we even have a song, is verse 11, "worthy art thou, O Lord, and our God to receive glory and honor and power for thou didst create all things and because of thy will they existed and were created."

Then notice back in chapter 13 that in verses 4-6, they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast. "And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things," and you'll notice the worshiping is taking place of the beast and of the dragon but now notice the contrast between the entity that the people of the earth are worshiping here and those that are in heaven that were worshiping in chapter 4. It says that, "It was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months and he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God to blaspheme his name and his tabernacle and them that dwell in heaven." What a dark contrast to the real God in heaven, the real eternal Jehovah sitting on the throne and the fake god sitting on his throne on earth desiring and calling for the worship of people. His only response is there's nothing about him being the Creator and the sustainer and worthy, all he can do is blaspheme God and blaspheme those that are followers of God.

Also look at verse 7 with the scene in Revelation 7. It says,

"7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."

You'll notice that this passage is saying that he has power over all kindreds and tongues and nations and doesn't that sound a little bit like those that are under the throne or around the throne of God back as we saw it in Revelation 7? Particularly verses 9-11 and it says, "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb." Notice that here we have God, the scene in heaven with God being surrounded by those that he's redeemed, that Jesus Christ has redeemed from every tribe, every kindred, every nation and the parallel to the antichrist, the anti-God now having persons that are around him and worshiping him who were...he had power over them from every kindred, every tongue and every nation. So, the similarities or the parallelisms or the, I guess you'd say, the antithesis of the real God, the real Christ, the real heaven and the kingdom that Satan, the dragon, is trying to set up on this earth and the people from all over being made to bow down and worship.

Also, compare verse 8 back in Revelation 13,

“8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him,” and those that worship him are those, “whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

In chapter 17:8, it says, “The beast that you saw was, and is not.” We're talking about the same beast that's here in chapter 13, “and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction,” and this is from the ESV. “And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was,” or he was, “and is not and is to come.” So, here we have the beast that is getting worship from all the people of the world and the ones that are worshipping him and Pastor, in his slides that he sent out this week, I don't remember that we actually got to that part in the actual presentation last Sunday, but the slides are talking about if there are any people that are still alive that are born-again or believers, this is a real conundrum, so-to-speak, because it says that all that dwell upon the earth at this time shall worship him whose names and it's those names that are not written in the Lamb's book of life.

Now we have gotten to the passage that we were supposed to look at for today and that's verses 11-18. So follow with me as we read in chapter 13.

“11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live . 15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. 16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.”

Most of us have all heard the 666 part before and I'm sure there's probably not anybody in here that...even the unbelieving world, even Hollywood uses that quite often as the mark of an evil one. But if we start again looking back at verse 11, we notice this beast has two horns. He's coming up out of the earth as opposed to the first beast that came up out of the seas. There is a lot of speculation about the meaning behind coming from the sea or coming from the earth. Pastor talked on that a little bit last week. To me, it's not a

significant thing. They're both coming into power from the things of the earth and from Satan, from the dragon. They are going to have authority over the earth but he also has two horns like a lamb or what I would call a ram. Most of us today recognize, even Dodge uses that as a symbol of power, the Dodge Ram, the two horns. Not a meek lamb that is wandering around lost which Christ calls us sheep or lambs which is not by accident. But this ram has the picture of power and horns. He also spoke like the dragon. He also exercised all the power of the first beast before him and, again, as I mentioned earlier, this is probably inferring that he is the false prophet.

If you look at chapter 19 and verse 20, and chapter 20, verse 10, it talks about the trilogy or the trinity of these evil ones. In chapter 17:8, it says, "The beast that you saw was and is not and is to come up out of the abyss and to go to destruction. Those who dwell on the earth will wonder whose name has not been written in the book of life." I'm in the wrong chapter. Sorry. Verse 20 of chapter 19, "And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire." So, we have the beast that was ceased and the false prophet who had deceived those who received the mark. So, we're talking about the beast and the false prophet in the same sentence of being thrown into the lake of fire and that is referred to again in chapter 20, verse 10. "And the devil," or the dragon, "who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also," so talking about the previous time and we'll be getting to this later in our studies so I'm not going to get too far into it but the beast and the false prophet are related together and the dragon or Satan, the devil, then tied to them later on in chapter 20 so it's not a real stretch of the Scriptures to say that this is speaking of the false prophet. He's not a political person, he's probably a religious person. That's what prophets tend to be. His purpose is to cause the people of the earth to worship the beast and the dragon.

Notice in verse 14, it says that,

"14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast."

Verse 13,

"..so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,"

and the miracles and the powers that he had. Where was there another prophet or another example of someone that brought fire down from heaven? Elijah. Then, of course, the miracles that he was doing and that's in 1 Kings 18. So this is, again, I believe, a parallel or an anti-prophet, a false prophet and an anti-symbol of the Holy Spirit just as Satan is the anti-God and the first beast is the anti-Christ. Anybody that, as I mentioned earlier, anybody that claims to be like Christ could be an antichrist.

(...) Thank you for that. I had not included that in my notes but I appreciate having you bring that up that the Jews are looking for Elijah to come and Satan is going to provide it. Imitating God's prophets and imitating Elijah the prophet and the prophets that they have just seen or the evangelists that they have just seen recently.

Also, we see that this beast demanded that the people of the earth create an image of the first beast. It was probably or it will probably be located in Jerusalem which will be the center of the one world government at that time, possibly in the temple that was desecrated by the beast, where the beast sets up his throne, where the beast sets up the center of authority and power. As I said earlier, just remember the dragon, the beast and the false prophet are not omnipresent so when the world leader leaves his throne, he needs something there to keep people under his power or his spell and we now have the technology to have, I think it's very possible that we're going to have cameras, this image is going to be created, the second beast is going to give what appears to be power for this image to be alive. Again, I don't believe that Satan has the power to give life to somebody so it's trickery. I believe it's probably going to be trickery but he's going to appear to be alive, going to appear to breathe and it's going to be established in a place with cameras. Now when the first beast and the dragon are not physically on their throne, they've got somebody that appears to be and the world is going to be mesmerized by, "Look, he gave this thing power. He gave this thing life." So the camera is on him 24/7, being able to be broadcast like C-SPAN or whatever and the whole world is going to say, "Wow! Look at this. This is cool!"

Of course, it's going to bring everybody under his authority and to keep them under that authority, he's got to have some means and therefore we see that he brings about the marking of the sign of the beast or the sign of man, the 666. There have been a myriad of hypotheses about this and I believe that simply because number seven is God's number of perfection, six is man's number. Instead of the Trinity of 777 it's the sign of the anti-Trinity 666. I don't believe there's any mystical thing about it. There has also been many commentaries about the means of applying the mark. Again, technologies have contributed a host of possible methods. There are some credit cards, some of you may have them that have that little emblem, that little chip on the front of them. We have a pet's chip in our dog. All it takes is just waving, being near this chip and you can read information or the right devices can read information from it and you can embed whatever you want into those chips. These could be very easily and we know it can happen under the skin because the dog has it under his skin, it could be in our temple, it could be in the hairline for those of us who still have hair and those that don't. Mine's disappearing, by the way. In the back of the hand. You say, "I don't have any hair to hide it so just put it on the back of my hand." I personally don't have a fear of these technologies nor am I going to refuse to use them. I might even be willing to take that. What becomes the issue is when that chip has been encoded with something that says that you have to get your purchase at the store or your whatever it is, you have to have embedded in that chip, in that code, an allegiance to somebody. That's when I get concerned.

Our heavenly Father, we thank you for your word. We thank you that we do have the promise that you win.