

REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 20 (13:1-9) Two Witnesses of the Devil

Introduction: We are now moving into the most difficult part of the book of the Revelation. By the time people get this far in reading this Book, they are usually ready to put it aside. Let us put our minds to work as we study this chapter. There are many preachers who would not touch this book with a ten foot pole, but let me remind you that 13th chapter is a part of the Word of God and ALL the Word of God is to be preached and God doesn't end His book in some sort of mystery. Jesus Christ came to speak these words to the old preacher, John. If Jesus did that, and He did, if this is in the Bible, and it is, then it is our responsibility to sharpen our minds and learn what this book has to say. Here are seven short points to introduce this chapter:

1. In Revelation 11:1-14, we studied about the two witnesses Jesus had, Moses and Elijah. When Jesus comes back the second time, He'll have two heralds. When He came the first time, He had one, John the Baptist. Here we are going to see that the Devil will have two witnesses. Remember, the devil does have access to heaven (Job) but in the middle of the Tribulation, the devil will be cast out of heaven and will have his greatest ministry as he defeats the world during the last 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation. He will have two heralds.
2. The Lord's two witnesses will be present for Jesus' second coming and the devil will have two witnesses during his second fall.
3. The Tribulation has two recorded areas of evangelism: Jews and Western Europe.
4. In these two areas the devil will have special representatives and dictators will arise in each area.
5. The first dictator (diplomatic) of the Revived Roman Empire will be a Gentile. The dictator of the Jews will be a Jew. The Gentile dictator is described in Revelation 17: the beast with 7 heads, Daniel 2:34, called the feet of the image (image described by Daniel of a panorama of nations). Daniel 7:8, the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire is called the little horn. Daniel 9:26 he is called the Prince that shall come. In 2 Thessalonians he is called the man of sin.
6. there will be a Jew arise as dictator of Palestine. He and the Gentile dictator will terrify the world until Jesus returns and defeats them and sets up His millenium reign. The Jewish dictator is described in Genesis 49 and he is called "Dan" the serpent (from the tribe of Dan). In Revelation 16, he is called the false prophet. In Daniel 11:3, he is called the king who does his own will.
7. Summary: These two dictators will rule at the same time and one will be subservient to the other. The Jew will be subservient to the Gentile and the Gentile will erect his statue in the Temple and demand the whole world fall down and worship him.

At this time there will be a period of power politics. The Bible speaks of this: The King of the North (Russia?), describing the vast area North of Palestine known as the "Russian" area today. the King of the East (the oriental block, China, Japan, etc), the King of the South, the Arabic and African nations and the King of the West (USA, etc.)

CHAPTER 13 - Open your Bible and look:

v1 - "sand of the sea" - He stood, the dictator (v18 of the previous chapter), possessed of the devil.

- "and I saw a beast" - John saw a living creature (beast)

- "sea" - speaks of nations, nations of the world, the dictator rises up just like Hitler, unknown but overnight Germany erupted in favor of him. Something like that will happen to this dictator, he will astound the world.

- "beast" - the dictator

- "seven heads" - refers to the seven empires that have controlled Israel through history (Egypt Assyria, Chaldea, Medio-Persia, Greek Macedonia, Rome and the Revived Roman Empire which is to come.)

- "ten horns" - refers to the ten nations of the Revived Roman Empire (complete now). Daniel 2:31-45 says they are of iron and clay. Iron refers to the nations originally in the Roman empire. Clay refers to the nations not in originally but will come in later (perhaps the USA).

- "blasphemy" - very wicked person. Is going to try to do good, try to run God out of the universe.

v2 - Who is this dictator? What kind of person?

- "like unto" - an analogy

- "leopard" - Daniel tells us these different animals describes different nations. In Daniel 7:3, the leopard describes Greece. Why a leopard? The leopard moves very rapidly, the lion is stronger, but the leopard is the fastest of the two. Remember Alexander the Great in 12 years moved over the world, very rapid. Greece is symbolized by the swift, sudden movements of the leopard. In 3 1/2 years he will capture the world. Millions will be slaughtered during the last 3 1/2 years by this man-dictator.

- "feet as a bear" - the nation of Persia (Daniel 7:5). Cyrus the Great, had a little kingdom, but in 26 years he had conquered the world. It will be a powerful man like Alexander the Great.

- "mouth of a lion" - the Babylonian Empire (Daniel 7:4)

- "dragon" - Satan - Satan is going to empower this man.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 - The description of the dictator of the revived Roman Empire. What kind of person?

v3 - "any means" - this dictator is going to use every means available to deceive, physically, spiritually and intellectually, militarily, magically, tongues, miracles, etc..

- "falling away" - Greek word is "departure." The rapture of the Church, before this happens.

- "man of sin" - the dictator of the revived Roman Empire

- "son of perdition" - Only two men in the bible are called the "son of perdition" - the dictator of the revived Roman Empire and Judas Ischariot.

v4 - "sitteth in the Temple of God" - puts his statue in the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus told of this in Matthew 24. Daniel spoke of it (abomination) and the whole world is to bow before him.

v5 - "remember ye not" - Paul had already explained this before.

v6 - "what withholdeth" - the power of the restraining the dictator keeps it from happening right now. The Holy Spirit is that power of restraint. The Holy Spirit is holding back the coming of this man until THAT number has been saved. When that last one has been saved, the Kingdom of God will come, Jesus Christ will come for His Church and the Holy Spirit will leave the earth.

v7 - "mystery of iniquity doth already work" - the process is already working

- "letteth" - hinder

v8 - "then" - when the Holy Spirit leaves

- "shall destroy" - a beautiful way to tell us that at the end, Jesus Christ will return and shall destroy Satan and this dictator.

v9 - How is this dictator going to do all this?

- "with all power" - he is going to get his power from Satan. Satan is second only to God in power.

- "signs" - miracles

- "wonders" - tongues

v10 - "truth" - doctrine. People don't know doctrine and they are led astray.

THIS IS A DESCRIPTION OF THE DICTATOR THAT IS GOING TO COME....BACK TO REVELATION 13

v3 - "wounded" - the Roman empire lasted 500 years but in 476 A.D., they had a little Caesar named Romulus Augustus and he was defeated, ending the Roman empire.

- "healed" - The Roman empire that was defeated and has been silent all these years will be revived. This dictator will rule this revived Roman Empire.
- "wondered after the beast" - astounded. How could he do what he did?

v4 - Describes the religious activities of the dictator:

He's going to be a religious person, going to be religious and political at the same time and will combine the church and the state. He will place his statue in the Temple in Jerusalem and the whole world is going to bow down before him. In times past Mao Tse Tung died and all the leaders of the world, all the reporters of the world said he was a great man, but he was one of the most evil men that ever walked the face of the earth - a godless dictator who marched across China and when that march was over, 20 million people had died. He married one wife after another, nobody knows where some of them went. He was a sorry example of a man and when he died the whole world was better off, but the press and publicity said he was a great man. He was NOT a great man. He was very much like the dictator that will rise up in those last days. Mao Tse Tung said "there is no God and I will lift China and feed China and wipe God out and I'll be God." BUT he's dead now and his kind will always bring disaster to the world. He played God.

- "who is like the beast" o- Who is like Mao Tse Tung? Who is like Hitler? Who is like Stalin? That's the kind of man this dictator will be.

v5 - "mouth" - eloquent speaker

- forty two months" - going to take 3 1/2 years to consolidate his powers and then the last 3 1/2 years he will rule the world. Slaughter will happen all over the earth.

IS THIS SO HARD TO UNDERSTAND?

v6 - "blasphemy" - going to have to explain what happened to the Church and Christians

- "tabernacle" - the Christian Church, family.

v7 - "make war with saints" - Christian martyrs during the Tribulation. Jewish evangelists, etc.

- "kindreds" - Jews, tribes
- "tongues" - Satanic Pentecost
- "nations" - Gentiles

v8 - "worship him" - going to worship the dictator

- "book of life" - There are two books: The book of the living, everyone ever born and the book of works. Jesus died for the sins of every person who ever lived on this earth, so their names are written down. At the end of time there will be the book of life containing the names of all who have believed in Jesus Christ. TWO books, the book of the living, all that ever lived and some names blotted out of that book because they did not believe in Jesus Christ.
- "not written" - do not stay written, was once written, but because they did not believe, their names were scratched out. Philippians 4:3; Revelation 17, etc.
- " of the lamb" - Remember where Adam and Eve got their first clothing? God provided by slaying animals. Jesus died on the cross to provide forgiveness of everyone's sins.

v9 - "ear" - true statement

- "let him hear" - Note that everywhere else it always added "what the Spirit sayeth to the Churches" but the Church as been taken to heaven and the Holy Spirit went there also.

Stay with the study, there is much, much more to come.