

REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 21 (13:10-14:5)
The Mark of the Beast

Introduction: One of the dictators the Bible talks about is going to come to the scene right at the end of the age, before Jesus comes back to earth. In our study of this Book of Revelation we are in the middle of the Tribulation period (review the Tribulation) and when evil has done its worse, Jesus Christ will return.

v9 - Has been repeated seven times up to now, but it had something else added to it - "...what the Spirit saith to the Churches..." NOTICE that it is dropped off. Why? The Church is in heaven. This verse is a proof that the Church will not go through the Tribulation.

WE ARE NOW GOING TO STUDY THE SECOND DICTATOR - the Roman Empire is very interesting to study. Remember, there was a Roman Empire, then it vanished but it revived as the Holy Roman Empire. The Pope of Rome crowned Charlemagne as the dictator of the Holy Roman Empire and then it passed away again in 476 A.D. but it will be revived again. THERE will also be a principle involved with the Revived Roman Empire and the dictator.

v10 - "if" - in verse 9 is translated the very same as "he" in verse 10 but it should be "if" here also. "If anyone is for captivity, he shall go into captivity" Jesus said, "he that taketh the sword, shall perish by the sword.." "If anyone has the policy of enslaving others, he, himself, shall be enslaved.." HERE IS THE PRINCIPLE: "The way you live will determine the ultimate outcome of our life." Live according to God's law, life will be glorious. Live outside God's law, you may die a very disgusting, horrible life.
THIS PRINCIPLE APPLIES TO BOTH DICTATORS THAT WILL RULE IN THE TRIBULATION

In our last study we studied about the Gentile Dictator, now we will study about the Jewish Dictator, the dictator of Israel and both of them will rule the world together during the Tribulation.

v11 - "another beast" - another of the same kind. One a Gentile and this one a Jew. Ruthless, trying to destroy mankind. If not worshiped and obeyed, then that person would NOT receive that special number and therefore starve. The world has never known anyone as ruthless as these two. One will pass (Jew) himself off as the Messiah.

- the earth" - the land, technical name for the land God gave the Jews. He is called a beast, a prophet, wicked, anti-Christ. This man and the Gentile dictator will be the anti-Christ (against Christ), actually "anti" is in place of.

This earth is designed for Jesus Christ to rule it and nobody will ever rule this world except Jesus. Anybody who tries to rule it will fall flat on his/her face. MAN CANNOT BE EVERYTHING TO EVERYBODY AS POLITICIANS THINK THEY CAN.....ONLY JESUS CHRIST CAN DO THAT. Only Jesus Christ can solve everybody's problems.

These two are going to try to replace Jesus Christ, but He is going to return just at the right time.

- "two horns" - political and religious ruler. He will join state and religion together and when that happens, freedom is lost.

- "spake" - spoke what the devil wanted him to say. He is the devil's representative and he is from the tribe of DAN.

v12 - "exerciseth all power" - the same source of power as the first dictator (power from Satan)

- "worship the first beast" - A treaty is going to be made and in the middle of the Tribulation, they will erect a golden statue of the Gentile dictator of the revived Roman Empire and the dictator of Palestine (Jew) is going to try to get the whole world to worship the first dictator. Television coverage and at certain times of the day, all things will come to a stop and everyone will worship this dictator via television - is this not possible, even today?

- "wound healed" - 476 A.D. was the last emperor of Rome and nothing since, but during the Tribulation, a new dictator will rise from Rome and thus the "wound is healed."

v13 - What kind of man will this dictator be? What kind of program will he have?

- "great wonders" - a miracle worker
- "fire come down" - Amazing how miracles go along with demon possession. In the history of the world, the devil and the snake have always been connected (in the garden of Eden, in the Egyptian language) "snake" also translated "demon" and wherever you have demon worship, somewhere close by is the worship of a snake (Python - puthon). In India they worship the cow, the snake and the monkey. All of us have seen the "kardusis" - the emblem where the snake is wound around a pole - it is a medical symbol of hospitals, doctors, etc...anything medical, a symbol of healing. The true God of healing is also the God of the snake (He made the first snake). This dictator will heal, work miracles. (If Satan can cause sickness, then he can heal as well).

vv14, 15 - describe how the statue will be placed in the temple.

- "deceiveth them" - those living
- Image of the beast" - the Revived Roman Empire dictator.

v15 - "power" - demon power

- "image speak" - ever walk up to a machine and it starts talking to you? Not so strange now is it?
- "should be killed" - here is religion in the Tribulation. RELIGION damns more people to hell than anything else. Religion is man trying to reach God by his own ways and strength. CHRISTIANITY IS NOT RELIGION - CHRISTIANITY is God reaching down to mankind. Whenever Religion and the state (government) get together, freedom always goes. God never intended for man to rule over one another. This is Jesus Christ's and Jesus Christ's purpose alone.

NOW WE COME TO THAT MUCH TALKED ABOUT SCRIPTURE: THE MARK OF THE BEAST

v16 - "mark" - Where did this originate? In Rome, it was mandantory for all young men to serve in the military for a while. They had a four year training period for each man. Every soldier who completed his military training was branded on his hand and he carried that mark the rest of his life. He was very proud of it for he was one of the great Romans.

It is a system of identification, who you stand for, an Identification card. In the Tribulation, if you do not have that "mark" then no food, no buying, no selling, etc. You will be banned. However if you would fall down and worship the statue, then you would receive a mark in your hand or on your forehead. Remember Caesar? When he was so popular, everyone called him a god. The soldiers had "Caesar is God" on their shields and when they marched through cities (Palestine), the soldiers would stop and everyone had to bow before the shields and the image of Caesar and say "Caesar is god" ..the Christians would not say that and therefore they were put to death. Millions of Christians were put to death. All who wear this mark of the beast (dictator) will say that the two dictators are "god," believe and worship as God.

v17 - "might buy or sell" - without the mark, one will be banned form the markets. Today there are parks, stores, institutions, playgrounds, schools, etc., where upon entering a stamp is put upon one's hand and one must buy a ticket in order to get the stamp and the freedoms that go with the stamp. This is the same kind of identification that will be used in the Tribulation.

- "number" - notice three things: Mark, Name, and Number. What does this mean?

v18 - Here is the answer:

- "count the number" - the number of a man

- "666" - The world is built on numbers: 1 stands for unity (One God), 2 is the number of confirmation (if 2 agree, if "two witnesses"), 3 is the number of God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) God always goes as the "trinity," 4 is the number of the world - 4 seasons, 4 points of the compass, etc., 5 and 10 come from the whole mathematical system, 5 from the hand, 5 from the feet, 10 from both, 7 is the perfect number, perfection - 7 times forgive, 7 golden candlesticks, 7 days in a week, 7 years of Tribulation, 70 years of captivity, but 6 is short of 7. Man is short of the perfection of God. Man was made on the 6th day, therefore it is the number of man and always will be. READ VERSE 18 AGAIN. man can never reach the perfection of God and that is why man is 6 and not 7. Why 666? You could run this on and out as far as you want (6666666666666666,etc) but you will never have anything more than incomplete man. Evil men will take evilness to its maximum. God is saying "here is man at his worst." They say that in Arabia many have license plates with 666 on them, they have no idea what that means. This passage tells us that man is going to try to take over God's place and rule the world but can never reach the perfection of God. 6 can never be 7.

Will there be evangelism at that time? YES.

Chapter 14

v1 - "stood" - perfect tense, at the right minute, Jesus Christ will take His stand - forever as King of kings and Lord of lords forever.

- "144,000" - The Jewish evangelists who witnessed during the Tribulation.

v2 - This is that great angelic choir. We have choir concerts today but we've never heard anything until God strikes up His choirs on that great day. Millions and millions of choir members.

v3 - "new song" - If a person is not redeemed, he/she cannot sing the language of Zion (think about some of today's singers), you can't imagine some of them standing up and singing "Amazing Grace" and knowing what they are singing about and meaning it. An unregenerated person just cannot understand the things of God, and that pertains to music as well as anything else. Nothing will ever be greater than when this great heavenly choir comes to sing. Everybody will be in tune with God. That's why the unredeemed cannot sing this song.

v4. This is what is going to happen during those days. Aren't you glad you're a Christian? Is this so strange? God wants you to realize that He isn't going to come limping in at the end of time. He's going to come in as the KING OF kings, the LORD of lords, the CONQUERER of conquerers. Jesus Christ is going to rule from sea to sea - the entire world, the entire universe, the entire everything, everywhere.

Hasn't this been an interesting study? There's much more to come.