

THE SECOND BEAST: A FALSE PROPHET

Rev. 13:11-18

Study #28

Introduction:

1. There is a desire within man to commit his life to something... a job, family, school, sport, car, house, land, money, girlfriend, boyfriend, power, and many other things.
2. At the end of time the government will be facing the problem of getting people to be loyal to the government of the antichrist. How can this be done?
3. This will be the problem facing the antichrist and his government. There will be someone who will appear and help bring order and peace. The antichrist will be that person. He is going to need help and the second beast will help him. The second beast will become the world-wide spokesman and propaganda chief for the antichrist. He is also called *the false prophet*.

L THE ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION OF THE SECOND BEAST (vII)

1. The second beast will come out from among the common people of the earth and will become the second most powerful man on the earth.
2. He will appear to be as innocent as a lamb, harmless, mild, meek, lovable.
 - He will appear to be a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, a religious man. -He will, however, speak as a dragon. His words will betray him.
 - will teach the word of the antichrist, not God's Word
 - will speak only lies
 - will not speak for God, but for the antichrist
 - will speak for the people to accept the antichrist, not Jesus
 - will be promoting the antichrist, not Jesus

3. The second beast will become the spokesman, the motivator for the antichrist.

-2 Cor. 11:13-15; 2 Tim. 3:1-2, 5, 13; 2Jn. 7

II. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SECOND BEAST (V12)

1. His objective is to secure the devotion, loyalty, and allegiance of the world to the antichrist and his government.
2. He will exercise all the power of the antichrist for he is second in command.
3. He is a prominent religious leader. He comes from the root of Christianity and from the church. He is either a minister or a priest, representing the Lord Jesus.

III. THE MEANS HE WILL USE TO SECURE THE LOYALTY AND DEVOTION OF THE WORLD (vv13-17)

1. The false prophet (beast) will deceive people with miraculous signs, especially with fire (v!3). It will appear that he has God's divine approval.
2. He will use universal religion to secure the loyalty of the people (w!4-15). The old Roman empire is an example. The emperor and nation were worshipped. - Peace and economic recovery the antichrist brings to the world will give reason to worship the antichrist and his government. - The false prophet will point out to the world the capabilities of the antichrist and the world will accept him as its god. -The universal worship will center around the *image* of the antichrist. It will be placed all over the world in all places, even temples. -The *image* will be given power to speak. -Rev. 13:15; Rev. 14:9-11; Rev. 16:2; Rev. 19:20; Rev. 20:4
3. He will use religious persecution to secure loyalty to the antichrist and his state. -Those who refuse to worship the antichrist will be slaughtered. - Rev. 7:9, 13-14; Rev. 13:7; Rev. 15:2,3; Rev. 20:4
4. He will use economic controls to secure loyalty to the antichrist. -The whole economy will be based upon the *mark* of the antichrist. -People who swear allegiance to the antichrist will be given a mark on their head or forearm and be allowed to buy, sell, own property, etc. - Those without the mark will be hunted down and slaughtered. -Rev. 14:9-11; Rev. 20:4

IV. GOD HAS ASSIGNED THE ANTICHRIST A NUMBER (v18)

1. Seven is the perfect number. Six is the number of man and is incomplete, short of God's glory, God's perfection. 666 is the duplication of God's number 6. -The antichrist is NOT God...far from it. He, too, is merely a man, short of the glory of God and certainly not perfect. He will die and be judged by God as every man will.
2. 1 stands for unity (one God); 2 is the number of confirmation (2 witnesses); 3 is God's number (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit); 4 is the number for the world (4 seasons, points of the compass; 5 and multiples of 5 are for completeness (fingers and toes, 5 and 10 cent stores); 7 is the number for perfection (forgive 7 times, 7 days in a week; 7 golden candlesticks).

CONCLUSION

No matter how great or powerful a man may be, he will still die and face God's judgment.