

28. The Activity of the Beast on the Earth

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain why Christ gives all who follow Him both the desire to obey God and then the power to obey God as they yield to Him. In this topic, we will learn about the beast that rises up out of the earth.

In Revelation 13:1-4, we read, “Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet of a bear*, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. And *I saw* one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, ‘Who *is* like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’” This refers to the dragon (Satan) who is mentioned in the previous verse.

We see that Satan will stand on the sand of the sea. In Revelation 20:8, we see that the people of the earth will be like the sand of the sea. That verse speaks of Satan and says, “And will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea.” In this verse, we see that the sand speaks of the people of the nations. Satan will be among the people of the nations with a very short time to destroy them when a beast rises up out of the sea. This beast has seven heads and ten horns. We saw a similar description of Satan, when he was cast out of heaven in Revelation 12:3, where we read: “And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.” However, this beast rises out of the sea.

In this chapter, and chapter 17, we will see four ways that Satan tries to imitate the true and living God. Here, instead of the Lamb of God, we see the beast of Satan. We will see that this beast is the antichrist and his world system. This beast is described as coming up out of the sea and has seven heads and ten horns with crowns on them. Daniel 7:24-25 says, “The ten horns *are* ten kings *who* shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first *ones*, and shall subdue three kings. He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.” In talking about this same event, Daniel says that the antichrist will arise from within the former fourth world empire. He will speak against God with pompous words. He will persecute the saints for “a time and times and half a time”. As we saw in an earlier topic, that is three-and-a-half years or forty-two months.

He is described as having a blasphemous name. In Daniel 7, the leopard represented the Greek Empire, because it moved with such swiftness; the bear represented the Medo-Persian Empire, because of its fierceness; the bear represented the Babylonian Empire with its great power. The fourth beast is described in Daniel 7:7, where we read: “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was

devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It *was* different from all the beasts that *were* before it, and it had ten horns.” The Roman Empire was the fourth world empire. It is from a revived Roman empire that the antichrist will come. Satan will give the antichrist his power, his throne, and great authority.

We see here, in Revelation 13:3, that the antichrist will imitate the death and resurrection of Christ, as the first part of verse 3 says, “And *I saw* one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed.” This is the description of his imitation of the death and resurrection of Christ. This imitation will cause the entire world to be amazed and follow the antichrist. This is an indication that he will become the ruler of the entire world because the people will be so amazed at this imitation. The rulers of each of the four world empires claimed to be a god. This antichrist will follow that same pattern. The people will worship Satan because he gave power to the antichrist. They will also worship the beast and say there has never been a ruler like him. The people will also feel that he is so powerful that no one can fight against him. Those, who are not tribulation saints, will be totally deceived by him. 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 says, “And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” Here, we see that they will believe the lie of the antichrist.

In the previous topic, we saw that Satan would try to destroy Israel in his rage, but God will protect part of the Jews. In this chapter, we see that Satan will work through the antichrist and the people will turn their anger against the tribulation saints. Revelation 13:5-8 says, “And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

We see the power that Satan will give to the antichrist. Satan will give him great speaking ability so he can speak great things. This power will be limited by God to only forty-two months (the three-and-a-half years or one thousand two hundred and sixty days of the Great Tribulation). He will open his mouth and speak blasphemy against God. The word “blasphemy” means *to speak slander or to speak evil*. Here, we see that the antichrist will speak evil against God. In addition, he will speak evil against everything that relates to God. This includes the name of God, the tabernacle of God, and all those who dwell in heaven, which would include all of the godly angels and all of those taken to heaven in the Rapture.

Satan will give the antichrist authority to make war against the tribulation saints. We see that he will overcome the remaining tribulation saints. This will be in addition to any saints who have already been killed. Revelation 6:9-10 says, “When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’” Here, we see that God will allow the

antichrist to kill many of the tribulation saints, except the one hundred and forty-four thousand that have been sealed.

We also see that the antichrist will have authority over every tribe, tongue, and nation. The antichrist will have the same attitude Nebuchadnezzar had in the time of Daniel and his friends. Daniel 3:4-6 says, “Then a herald cried aloud: ‘To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, *that* at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, *and* psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.’” The king basically told all of his rulers and leaders, “Worship my image or die.” The difference, in the time of the tribulation, is that the antichrist will demand this kind of worship from all of the people remaining on the earth.

Everyone “whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world,” will choose to worship the antichrist to preserve their lives. The Book of Life is mentioned eight times in the New Testament. Seven of those times are in the book of Revelation. The eighth use is in Philippians 4:3, where we read: “And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names *are* in the Book of Life.” In this verse, we see that all followers of Christ are written in the book of Life. Revelation 20:15 says, “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” All those whose names are not in the Book of Life will experience eternal judgment. Then, Revelation 21:27 says, “But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” Only those whose names are written in the Book of Life will be in heaven.

Revelation 13:9-10 goes on to say, “If anyone has an ear, let him hear. He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.” The statement “If anyone has an ear, let him hear,” is similar to the phrase that was repeated at the end of message to each of the seven churches in chapters 2 and 3. However, this phrase here does not include the phrase “what the Spirit says to the churches”. This is due to the fact that this is a message to the tribulation saints, instead of the churches. The purpose of this message is to prepare the tribulation saints for the fact that they can expect to experience various kinds of suffering, as Satan and the antichrist know that their time is short.

God explains, in these verses, the various ways that the tribulation saints will bring glory to God, even as they suffer for the Lord. Tribulation saints will be led into captivity and most will later be killed. Whatever forms of suffering they endure, God says they can bring glory to God by showing their patience and faith. We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to show their patience and faith by enduring whatever the Lord allows in their lives. In this way, they also bring glory to God. May the Lord richly bless you as you equip your children to explain to others how to bring glory to God.