

REVELATION 13:12 - 14:4

A. Revelation 13:12 - 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.

1. Here we see the False Prophet's role. The first beast (Antichrist) has dealt mainly with the **political** kingdoms and peace pact with Israel. The second beast here will work on changing everyone's beliefs and attempt to merge all religions together. He wants a **one**-world family, religiously and politically, under Antichrist's authority.

2. The way the False Prophet does this is to use (verse 12b) Antichrist's mock resurrection as the basis to rally mankind to worship Antichrist, the **risen** God!

a. *Note: When they worship Antichrist, who are they really worshipping? Satan! That is what Satan has always **desired** so he could be **like** the most high God.

Isaiah 14:12-14 - How are thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! Isaiah 14:13 - For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: Isaiah 14:14 - I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be **like** the most High.

b. **No doubt Satan remembers when he **led** the heavenly angelic worship of God. So now he uses the False Prophet to manufacture worship to himself (Satan).

3. Based on the false resurrection of Antichrist, that he is God...conqueror of death itself, the False Prophet creates a "**new** religion".

*Remember, there was already a religion that Antichrist had **used** for his purpose. It was a **moderate** Baal worship, but now the new religion will be a new form, a higher or ultimate Baal religion of Antichrist. He, with himself, **replaces** the old.

II Thessalonians 2:4 - [Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.]

Revelation 17:5, 16 - And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. Rev. 17:16 - And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall **hate** the whore, and shall make her **desolate** and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

B. Revelation 13:13 - And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

1. The False Prophet somewhat duplicates the ministry of Elijah and the two witnesses (Rev. 11:5). He calls **fire** to come down during his worship services! Can you image the people's **response**?

2. By doing this, he gains credibility and authority in demonstrating that Antichrist is indeed **God**. The miraculous fire validates to mankind that his message of Antichrist is **true**, when, in reality, his message is false and a counterfeit.

*They will believe, be convinced, that the "son of perdition" is God, deserving of the worship.

- C. Revelation 13:14 - 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.

1. God had warned Israel.

Deuteronomy 13:1-5 - If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, Deut. 13:2 - And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Deut. 13:3 - Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and will all your soul. Deut. 13:4 - Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. Deut. 13:5 - And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

2. We are never to underestimate the power of Satan. Here the False Prophet leads the followers of Antichrist to make an image, an idol, a statue of Antichrist, so he would be worshipped (their icon-visible idol).

- D. Revelation 13:15 - 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.

1. The False Prophet creates the idol that is in the image of Antichrist in Jerusalem. *Those who worship idols, worship Satan-devils.

2. The image has supernatural ability to appear to make it seemingly human. The image will be life-like with the ability to communicate!

*It will have the appearance of Antichrist in a seemingly human form, living, moving, and talking. This will deceive the masses of people.

3. A few years ago this was thought to be impossible, or at least not understandable. *But with today's high-tech, it is amazing what can be animated. Now everything talks back to you, from appliances, to computers, to our cars!

4. They have advanced "Virtual Reality" to the point that it is so life-like that it actually tricks your mind into thinking that what you are seeing is real!

5. This incredible event will catch the world's attention causing them to believe. Those who will not worship the beast's image will be marked for capital punishment. The False Prophet will make sure they are slain.

Revelation 20:4 - And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the *souls* of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their fore heads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

*As the 144,000 are marked on their foreheads, here Satan mimics God by marking his followers.

- E. Revelation 13:16-17 - 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: Rev 13:17 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.
1. There seems to be three forms of Antichrist's marks for identification that was required if one was to live, buy, or sell.
 *One needed to have Antichrist's name or number - Antichrist's mark - on his forehead or right hand.
 2. These marks could perhaps be some type of a stamped impression that only appears when exposed to ultra-violet light; a barcode, or a micro-chip that is implanted under the skin as they do pets today; or even just a tattoo for all to see (of a gay rainbow?).
Daniel 11:37 - Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.
 3. This means Antichrist and the False Prophet will cause a universal registration to identify followers of Antichrist. That will allow them to buy, sell, and trade (live openly).
 *But also, it is to reveal non-believers in him who have no mark of the beast, which actually marks them out to be reported. That will lead to their martyrdom (Rev. 20:4).
 4. When one takes the beast's mark, that will be tantamount to rejecting Christ, causing them to be doomed.
Revelation 14:9-11 - And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, Rev. 14:10 - The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: Rev. 14:11 - And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.
 5. What is his mark?
 - a. If you remember, Antichrist is represented by a lion, bear, and a leopard. Have you ever seen the marks on a leopard?
Jeremiah 13:23 - Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? *then* may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.
 - b. The leopard's spots are like two half moons joining together; or like a mom with lipstick on kissing her child's forehead. There is a red mark left, an image of that kiss. *If black lipstick, it would look like the marks or spots on a leopard!
 - c. Remember, the one making them to receive this mark is the False Prophet, and he is related to Antichrist's advanced Baal_worship.
 *Probably in their Baal church religious service, they can receive this mark showing their worship of Antichrist. It is at that time they kiss their Baal idol.
Hosea 13:1-2 - When Ephraim spake trembling, he exalted himself in Israel; but when he of fended in Baal, he died. Hosea 13:2 - And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves.

I Kings 19:18 - Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

*Interesting: Antichrist is mentioned in Revelation **13** times, and in the O.T., Baal is mentioned **13** times.

- d. Could it be possible that these advanced Baal worshippers who kiss their idol will be kissed **back** on their forehead or right hand leaving a **per**manent mark of a leopard kiss?

*What does God think of this mark of the Antichrist?

Revelation 16:1-2 - And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels. Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. Rev. 16:2 - And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

F. Revelation 13:18 - 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.

1. The beast's number is **666**. In Hebrew and Greek all letters have a numerical number. Every letter is a number and every number is a letter. *So you can count the number in a name.
2. Antichrist's personal name is **never** given in Scripture but we know that the number 6 is man's number. It is a number of incompleteness. Man was created on the 6th day; man's average height is 6 ft.; and man is to work 6 days of 7.

*Today there is too much speculation and not enough Bible. The point is that believers who will be living **during** the Tribulation, more than likely will be able to identify the beast by these numbers that will be equivalent to the letters of his name.

G. Revelation 14:1 - And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

*In Chapter 13, we saw all the blackness and darkness of satanic **evil** characters. They are anti-God, anti-Israel, anti-believers, and have hated - persecuted any who would not bow to the Antichrist. But here in Chapter 14, it is like after a storm and there is **light**.

1. The Lamb has not descended to earth **yet**, so this is speaking of the heavenly Zion (Jerusalem). The earthly temple was close to Mt. Zion (Abraham's - Christ's mountain range), so the temple in Heaven will be near the **peak** of the Heavenly Mt. Zion.
2. Note: Revelation 7:2-4 - And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Rev 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. Rev 7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel

*| Here is their protective sealing by God in order that they would not be killed while in the Tribulation. But now John sees them in Heaven! **How** did they get there? In our context, it is in the middle of Daniel's 70th week. They have been taken **up**!

- H. Revelation 14:2-3 - And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: Rev 14:3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

John's vision includes instruments, singers, and they sing a **new** song. Only the 144,000 could learn this song or have the right to sing it. This is because they are the ones who were protected from the Antichrist and all the plagues. They were spared from all the temptations and dangers they faced and were caught up. What a **deliverance**! **Here the 144,000 entertain with praise and thanksgiving before those around God's throne.

- I. Revelation 14:4 - These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, *being* the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

1. To the Jews, this is the law of harvest. Just before it was time to harvest the crops, they would harvest a **small** portion. Then they would take that to the Lord and wave that crop before Him as a testimony of the **coming** harvest. This small crop is called "firstfruits."
2. Here in Revelation 14, these 144,000 Jewish men are caught **up** to safety before the throne in Heaven. They are the firstfruits of a coming harvest from the Nation Israel, who **are** going to be redeemed and will be able to go into the Kingdom.

James 1:1, 18 - [James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. James 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.]

*| Those saved in the Tribulation are a kind of "firstfruits" of the harvest of all Jews **who** go into the Kingdom.

3. These 144,000 [were not defiled with women; for they are virgins]
 - a. The defilement here is not talking about not being married. The issue is in **relationship**.

Revelation 2:14, 20 - But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. Rev 2:20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Remember, fornication will be a **part of the Tribulation religious system of Antichrist. It will be an obligatory part of the idolatry system. It is a satanic device which worshipping people will participate in to satisfy their lusts of the flesh under the **cloak** of religion.

- b. The 144,000 will be kept from, preserved from, and **refuse** to partake of this evil worship. But others who refuse will be **martyred** for their faith (Rev. 6:9-11, 7:9, 14, 17).

*The term "virgin" is in regard to Tribulation believers who **will** not participate in the Antichrist's wicked, immoral, idolatrous Baal religious services.

During the Tribulation, **depravity is unleashed when there is not much **restraint**.