"God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung and bled and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I love you.'"
Billy Graham

REVELATION CHAPTER THIRTEEN
Handout Nineteen
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Revelation 13

THE BEAST OUT OF THE SEA

Barclay says that this chapter is the essence of the whole book of Revelation. According to Barclay, "The general meaning is this: Satan, thrown out of heaven, knows that his time is short and is determined to do as much damage as he can. To cause that damage on earth, he delegates his power to the two beasts which are the central figures of this chapter."

13 *[As] I stood on the sandy beach, I saw a beast coming up out of the sea with ten horns and seven heads. On his horns he had ten royal crowns (diadems) and blasphemous titles (names) on his heads.*

Almost all Bible commentators believe this beast stand for the Roman Empire, which for John and the Christians of his day would be the personification of evil. The description of this beast comes from Daniel 7:3-7, as Daniel describes four beasts that come out of the sea. The first beast, like a lion with eagles wings and a man's heart, was the Babylonia Empire; the second beast, a bear, was the Medo-Persian Empire; the third beast, a leopard, was the Greek Empire; and the fourth beast, with ten horns and seven heads, was the Roman Empire. This final beast was much stronger and more destructive than the other beasts and was so grotesque that it brought to Daniel's mind no known animal, although John sees the beast as a combination of a leopard, bear and lion. This is Daniel's description of this beast: "*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. I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words* (Daniel 7:7-8)."

The seven heads and ten horns stand for the rulers and emperors of Rome. The seven emperors of Rome following Augustus were Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, Vespasian, Titus and Domitian. In addition to these seven were three other men-Galba, Otho, and Vitellius-who ruled following Nero but only briefly with all three serving

consecutively in a total of 18 months. Thus, that makes the ten horns.

The blasphemous titles were titles the Emperors gave themselves, such as *divine, son of God,* and *lord.* Nero himself on his coins called himself *the Savior of the World.*

Daniel's little horn is most probably a reference to the Antichrist. Many Bible scholars believe the Antichrist will come out of the revived Roman Empire. Some say this empire will be composed of the countries of the European Union (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Others say this revived empire will be the countries surrounding Israel: Assyria (from the country of Iraq) with Babylon as its capitol; Jordan broken up into three parts-Moab, Edom, and Ammon; Saudi Arabia (the land of the Ishmaelites); Kuwait and some of the Gulf states, then called the Hagarenes; Syria, broken down into two countries, the country of the Amalekites and a new nation Bebal, and Palestine (Philistia).

2 *And the beast that I saw resembled a leopard, but his feet were like those of a bear and his mouth was like that of a lion. And to him the dragon gave his [own] might and power and his [own] throne and great dominion.*

This was a beast that had never been seen on land. There is no beast anyone has seen on earth that can be described in this way. The implication is that the Antichrist will have characteristics of the other beasts or empires that Daniel saw. These were all ungodly, non-Christian, and violent empires. They all got their power from Satan, just as Satan will give his power to the Antichrist. In fact, this might indeed be an incarnation of Satan. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians about the Antichrist: "*The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception, among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved."* (2nd Thessalonians 2:9-10).

3 *And one of his heads seemed to have a deadly wound. But his death stroke was healed; and the whole earth went after the beast in amazement and admiration.*

There is much divided opinion about this verse, especially when taken with Revelation 17:8: *The beast that thou sawest was and is not and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition; and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was and is not and yet is.*

Some believe that Satan will raise the beast from the dead and interpret the beast as a man only. The early church held this view and believes the beast was either Nero or Judah Iscariot. Others see this as the resurrection of the Roman empire, but Rome never really died and Satan *cannot* raise the dead. This power is Jesus' only.

J. Vernon McGee, rightly, I believe, says this: "I believe the Beast is a man who will exhibit a counterfeit and imitation resurrection. This will be the great delusion, the big lie of the Great Tribulation Period. We are told that God will give them over to believe the big lie (2nd Thessalonians 2:11), and this is part of that big lie. They will not accept the resurrection of Christ, but they sure are going to fake the resurrection of Antichrist…. Believers say, 'Christ has risen!' The boast of unbelievers in that day will be: 'So is Antichrist!' The Roman Empire will spring back into existence under the cruel hand of a man who faked a resurrection, and a gullible world who rejected Christ will finally be taken in by this forgery."

4 *They fell down and paid homage to the dragon, because he had bestowed on the beast all his dominion and authority; they worshiped the beast, exclaiming, "Who is a match for the beast, and, who can make war against him?"*

What the beast is doing here is trying to stop anything on earth that will glorify God. In that day there will be many brutally martyred by the beast. Hopefully the Church will already be raptured.

5 *And the beast was given the power of speech, uttering boastful and blasphemous words, and he was given freedom to exert his authority and to exercise his will during forty-two months (three and a half years).*

Satan's greatest desire is to be worshiped. Here is his big moment when the world falls down to worship him. Basically, these ungodly worshipers are saying that the beast is more wonderful that the God of the Bible.

Antichrist will only be reigning with this worldwide worship for 3 ½ years our of the seven of his reigns. He is going to be a persuasive and charismatic talker, promising anything, especially world peace.

6 *And he opened his mouth to speak slanders against God, blaspheming His name and His abode, [even vilifying] those who live in heaven.*
7 *He was further permitted to wage war on God's holy people (the saints) and to overcome them. And power was given him to extend his authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation,*
8 *And all the inhabitants of the earth will fall down in adoration and pay him homage, everyone whose name has not been recorded in the Book of Life of the Lamb that was slain [in sacrifice] from the foundation of the world.*
9 *If anyone is able to hear, let him listen:*
10 *Whoever leads into captivity will himself go into captivity; if anyone slays with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Herein is [the call for] the patience and the faith*

and fidelity of the saints (God's people).

Hopefully the Church will already be raptured at this time. There clearly will be, however, believers still here. I don't really understand this so I will not give you an answer to this dilemma right now.

If the Church has been raptured, I would think that the One who is restraining evil on earth, i.e. the Holy Spirit, would have departed. Yet He must be in some measure here because we cannot know Jesus apart from the Holy Spirit, and this passage says clearly that saints will be here. Without the full restraint of the Holy Spirit, things will be unbearable for most. This will be the darkest hour for humanity.

Verse ten has three points: First, if the Christian faith means imprisonment or whatever is involved in following Christ, we must accept it without complaining. Secondly, Christianity was never intended to be defended by force. The gospel is defended by the love we show, not by the sword. Thirdly, He has given us weapons: patience, faith, and faithfulness.

THE BEAST OUT OF THE EARTH

11 *Then I saw another beast rising up out of the land [itself]; he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke (roared) like a dragon.*
12 *He exerts all the power and right of control of the former beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell upon it to exalt and deify the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed, and to worship him.*
13 *He performs great signs (startling miracles), even making fire fall from the sky to the earth in men's sight.*
14 *And because of the signs (miracles) which he is allowed to perform in the presence of the [first] beast, he deceives those who inhabit the earth, commanding them to erect a statue (an image) in the likeness of the beast who was wounded by the [small] sword and still lived.*
15 *And he is permitted [also] to impart the breath of life into the beast's image, so that the statue of the beast could actually talk and cause to be put to death those who would not bow down and worship the image of the beast.*
16 *Also he compels all [alike], both small and great, both the rich and the poor, both free and slave, to be marked with an inscription [stamped] on their right hands or on their foreheads,*
17 *So that no one will have power to buy or sell unless he bears the stamp (mark, inscription), [that is] the name of the beast or the number of his name.*
18 *Here is [room for] discernment [a call for the wisdom of interpretation]. Let anyone who has intelligence (penetration and insight enough) calculate the number of the beast, for it is a human number [the number of a certain man]; his number is 666.*

The first beast is a man, a political leader with political power. This first beast comes out of the sea. The sea represents all the peoples of the world. This beast is opposed to Christ. He is Antichrist because he comes against Christ.

The second beast comes out of the earth. The earth that the second beast comes out of symbolizes Palestine or Israel. He is a false prophet and Israel would not accept him if he was not Jewish, so the thinking is that this man is a Jew. He is a false imitator. He even is described as a lamb, just as Jesus is the Lamb of God. He comes to do the will of the first beast. He talks of loving everyone, but he is a counterfeit who is dangerous and deceptive.

This false prophet is described by Jesus in Matthew 24:24: ***For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.***

We will look at this second beast more extensively in Chapter 17. This false prophet will try to exterminate the false, apostate church or harlot and will offer the world the chance to worship the first beast. He will have satanic power to do signs and wonders.

Perhaps this statue will be some kind of computerized human robot. This image will apparently be placed in the temple at Jerusalem, and this is something that will cause the whole world to turn and worship the beast.

The mark of the beast is a mystery that we still cannot truly solve. There are so many different opinions. We know that 6 in scripture is the number of man. Three is the number of perfection or completion, so 666 could represent what happens when mankind, with its flesh nature, comes into completion. There is certainly no doubt that the world has gotten worse and worse through the centuries and is becoming more and more fleshly.

The mark has many parallels in the time that John the Apostle wrote. Slaves were branded were branded with the mark of their owner, especially if they had run away or committed some serious misdemeanor. Sometimes soldiers would brand the name of their generals, if they were truly devoted to him. Also, when there was a contract of buying and selling, there was a seal on the document with the emperor's name and the date on it, signifying that the parties recognized the authority of the emperor. All coins had the image of the emperor to show that the money was really his property. Finally, when worshipers had burned incense in the false temples to the emperor, they were given a certificate. Christians who refused to do this were killed.

Many have used the mark of the beast with number games to try to figure out the mystery. Some have tried to figure out who the beast is by using numbers. For example, if we assign 100 to the English letter A, and 101 to the letter B, and so forth, we can take the name HITLER, with H being 107, I-108, T-119, L-111, E-104, and R-117. This adds up to 666.

I feel that these exercises, while interesting, are not valid, and a waste of time. We should simply understand that we have not figured it out yet. Personally, I believe that the

marks on the forehead and on the right hand have to do with the way we think and the way we do business, passing money from one to another. But we really don't know. Certainly, the whole world will be deceived in the time of the Antichrist and will think like the beast and do business his way. So, for me, it is more of an attitude thing, although I certainly am open to any revelation that anyone has pertaining to this. Yes, it could be as simple as a computer chip, but then I think that people, even unbelievers, would not take the chip, knowing the scripture.

The orthodox Jews to this day wear phylacteries on their left arms and on their foreheads. These are leather boxes with little scrolls containing the following passages of scripture Exodus 13:1-10, 13:11-16, and Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 11:13-21. Thus, the mark of the beast may be Satan's way of parodying or making fun of this Jewish custom.