

REVELATION 13:1-10

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 13 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

If you remember from our study in Revelation chapter 12, we saw a war breakout in heaven and Satan and his followers were cast out of heaven to the earth. They no longer have access to heaven. Thus, what we are seeing is the cleansing of heaven and this is preparing the way for this earth to be cleansed as the Lord returns to set up His Kingdom.

Keep in mind that we are still in a parenthetical section of this book where John is filling in some of the details of the Tribulation Period, besides the judgments of God that are being poured out upon a Christ rejecting world. We don't get to the bowl judgments until Revelation chapter 16 with a prelude to the bowl judgments in Revelation chapter 15.

And the focus now is not heaven, but the earth as we are in the last 3½ years of the 7 years Tribulation Period or what is known as the Great Tribulation.

But here in Revelation chapter 13 we are back to the beginning of the Tribulation Period as the first seal judgment is open and the Antichrist is unleashed upon this world.

You see, the focus of Revelation chapter 13 is two characters that emerge on the scene. They are the Antichrist and the false prophet. Now, why would the world surrender their authority to one man, the Antichrist? People today don't want to surrender to the authority of anyone, not even God! But that sentiment is changing and changing quickly.

I believe that something must happen for this man to rise to power. Folks, the average person may not be looking for this person, or wanting him to rule at this point, but world leaders are!

And I realize that many still have a hard time believing we are moving towards a one-world government. I am not sure why they don't see it. If you listen to what world leaders are saying, if you listen to what the Pope is saying, they are promoting the formation of a global government.

Let me share this article with you from a Europe publication. It is from March 18, 2021, and the title of this article is, ***“It is time to seriously consider the advantages of a world federal government.”***

This is what the article said.

The Covid-19 pandemic is a global crisis, yet it has largely been managed by states acting independently. Arvind Ashta argues that in light of the pandemic, we should seriously consider the potential advantages of moving toward a world federal government.

In a previous EUROPP article written during the first wave of the pandemic in Europe, I examined ways of financing measures to tackle Covid-19 and the relaunch of the global economy. In the concluding paragraph, I proposed a world federal government.

Federalism has many advantages, as explained in the Federalist Papers more than two centuries ago, including peace and free movement of people and capital within defined borders.

The inability of states to deal with the pandemic should encourage us to explore new approaches to governance, drawing on our knowledge of what has worked in the past. With this in mind, there are at least seven reasons why we should now consider moving toward a world federal government.

Reducing inequality

I start with inequality reduction, which is the tenth Sustainable Development Goal, but is also linked to the other goals such as poverty alleviation. There may be enough goods in the world, but not everyone has equal access. As explained by Dambisa Moyo, the system of international aid, especially bilateral aid, is often beguiled by corruption. This corruption also adds to the risk of investing in a given country.

If a federal world government were elected democratically, this government would be as legitimate as a national government. It would have the power to negotiate with and override national and local governments in areas within its competency. This power would reduce the zones of possible corruption for national governments. . . .

Eliminating currency risk

Second, in addition to the risks associated with investing in individual countries, there is also a currency risk that restrains capital from moving from one country to another and leveling the playing field.

Otherwise, with high interest rates in developing countries, capital should have already moved from developed to developing countries. However, the risk of a devaluation of the currencies used in developing countries is high, and this therefore deters the movement of capital.

If there were a federal world government and a federal monetary authority, it would be possible to have one currency, thus eliminating currency risk. This would therefore make the movement of capital freer. This single currency could be a cryptocurrency. . . .

Protecting the environment

A third problem is that of the environment – a problem that will also affect future generations. Certainly, developed countries can pay to dump their toxic waste on developing countries. They can also shift the most polluting factories to developing countries. At a global level, this geographical shift does not make a difference to climate change.

However, if pollution legislation were to be maintained at a world level, the rules would be equally applicable everywhere and therefore shifting factories to countries with more flexible legislation (or a lack of legislation) would no longer be possible. This means that companies would have to alter their processes or products. . . .

Fixing taxation

A fourth problem is that those with economic power can avoid taxation. Capital is mobile and this makes it extremely difficult to levy corporate taxes. . . . If corporations could be taxed adequately, the money raised could be redistributed more democratically, in an attempt to solve inequality, rather than relying on the generosity of corporate social responsibility.

The same problem is also true for any other tax on capital, such as the much-discussed Tobin tax on financial transactions. If the competency of corporate taxes were transferred to a world government, this would curtail the ability of owners of capital to negotiate with their feet.

No matter where the corporate headquarters are located, the corporate tax would be the same and creative transfer accounting would no longer yield a tax advantage. Taxes to curb speculation and unnecessary financial transactions could also be levied at a world level, with similar advantageous results. The underlying tension is that corporations may block a move to a world government precisely because they anticipate this development.

Curbing the power of multinationals

Fifth, large multinational corporations have tremendous economic power, often far greater than that of individual nations. As a result, they can lobby for conditions that perpetuate their power, to the detriment of competition and global economic welfare. Large banks that finance governments can also perpetuate deficit financing even in times of growth, simply to gain low risk interest income.

Large governments have much greater negotiating power with these firms. They also represent a lower financial risk and can therefore negotiate better rates of interest on loans.

Recently, thanks to the need to finance the relaunch of the economy post-pandemic, the European Union has recognized this and started to raise money collectively before distributing it to member states. A world government would have an even greater advantage in this negotiation and redistribution process.

Ensuring a fair response to crises

Sixth, the Covid-19 pandemic has shown that countries are competitive when it comes to protecting their citizens. Governments are currently scrambling to get vaccines, with a ‘me first’ approach generally prevailing over notions of solidarity or fairness. This has raised questions about who should be given priority for vaccinations, whether decisions over vaccines should be made at a global level, and whether factors such as income should be used to determine their distribution. . . .

A democratic perspective, in contrast, would start from the principle that all humans are equal. If health measures were within the purview of the world government, and if it was elected democratically, it would be in this government’s interest to ensure that people all over the world receive vaccines in a fair manner.

Solving the migration problem

Finally, in an international world, with global access to digital media, many people in developing countries would like to migrate to developed countries. They are currently prevented from doing so and this has led to an enormous loss of human life, as well as huge payments being made to human traffickers. In a federal world, there would be free movement of labour and this problem would be solved. . . .

The pandemic as a trigger for change

Major innovations in governance are often based on a shift in requirements triggered by a particular event. If the world has not already moved to global federalism today, it is in part because ***there has yet to be a trigger for pushing states in this direction.***

In the past, crises such as the two World Wars of the 20th century have acted as triggers for change.

Today, we face a war against a virus. Perhaps, the situation created by Covid-19 might serve to highlight the particular advantages of shifting to a world federal government. This may trigger a change that would not only help mitigate the damage caused by the pandemic, but would also offer a solution to many of the other challenges humanity currently faces.

- <https://bit.ly/3IZMON0>

The point I want to bring out here is something that I have been saying for years and many others have said as well. Catastrophe causes changes and his point in regard to the formation of a world government is that ***“there has yet to be a trigger for pushing states in this direction.”***

I think the COVID-19 pandemic was a trigger, but maybe not enough to push us into a world government, not yet.

But I think that there is going to be major catastrophe's that come upon this planet that will cause people to want a global government and it is out of that global government that a leader will arise, put in place by the religious leader or false prophet.

We may see the formation of this government before the Rapture, the beginnings of it but the Antichrist will not be revealed until the Church is removed!

Many years ago, Belgium's Premier, P. H. Spock, who was a Belgian socialist politician and the head of the United Nations back in 1946, made a statement in the newspaper that said, ***“The truth is that the method of international committees has failed. What we need is a person, someone of the highest order of great energy. Let him come and let him come quickly. Either a civilian or a military man, no matter what his nationality, who will cut all the red tape, shove out of the way all the committees, wake up all the people and galvanize all governments into action. Let him come quickly. This man we need and for whom we wait will take charge of the defense of the west. Once more I say, it is not too late, but it is high time.”***

You see, the world is looking, the world is searching for someone to rise up and solve all its problems and as things get worse, they will be more open to this man of sin who will emerge onto the scene.

They will reject the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ and thus, they will embrace the Antichrist.

In Revelation chapter 13 we are going to be introduced to this man and instead of being a man of peace, we will see his true colors come shining through and how he will get the world to bow down and worship him. But make no mistake about it, he comes on the scene as a man of peace, the one who will solve the world's problems. But in the middle of the Tribulation Period, at the 3½ year mark, he will go into the Holy of Holies in Jerusalem and demand to be worshiped as God. It is then that his true colors will be seen!

We do call this man the "*Antichrist*" and it is an interesting word.

The word "*anti*" in the Greek, means "*against*" or "*opposed to*" and it can also mean "*in place of.*" I tend to lean in that direction, that he is coming on the scene as the Christ, the replacement you might say for the true Jesus! And I guess it is correct to say that he is against or opposed to the true Christ if he is an imposter, but the main issue is that he is taking the place of Jesus for the people of this world!

Now we tend to speak of this man as the Antichrist but keep in mind that this name only appears some five times in four verses in the New Testament. We see it in I John 2:18, 2:22, 4:3 and II John 1:7.

So this evening that will be our focus, on this world leader that we call the Antichrist and next time we will look at the false prophet or the religious leader who comes on the scene uniting the religions of the world together and he will bring the Antichrist to world power!

With that as our background, let's begin reading in Revelation chapter 13, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us this evening as we dig into His Word.

REVELATION 13**VERSE 1**

I think that opening phrase, “**Then I stood on the sand . . .**” is not correct.

Some manuscripts say, as well as some translations, “**Then he [the dragon, Satan] stood on the sand of the sea . . .**”

You see, that makes more sense when you read what Revelation chapter 12 is speaking of, how the dragon, Satan is coming to persecute the children of Israel, the Jews and those who are following Jesus Christ, both Jews and Gentiles as he is cast out of heaven!

As John is writing down what he has seen, we are told that he sees this beast rising out of the sea and that word “**beast**” in the Greek is ***THEIRION*** and it speaks of a wild beast or a beast of prey!

Please don't come to the conclusion that this is some monster like Godzilla! This monster is the Antichrist who will be even more destructive than any monster you can imagine!

Let me also say this because some are confused by who this beast is referring to. Sometimes it represents a kingdom and sometimes the person. That means we have to pay close attention to what the passage is speaking about, the beast as a world government or the beast as a man, the Antichrist!

You see, the Bible views the final world empire as inseparable from its leader. A good example is that of Hitler. He was seen as being inseparable from the Third Reich.

Where does this man come from?

Some say that he is Muslim. Others say that he is Gentile.

I don't agree with either of them and the reason for that is that the Jews would never, ever see a Muslim as their Messiah and that is also true for a Gentile. I believe this man is Jewish! But where does he come from?

I see him rising out of the Gentile nations because the idea of him arising out of the sea speaks of the masses and not one specific group of people.

In Revelation 17:15 we see this spoken of, as we are told, **“Then he said to me, ‘The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.’”**

And thus, I believe the Antichrist will emerge out of the Gentile nations of the world!

And like I have said, this man is a deceiver as he imitates Christ.

Remember what John said in I John 2:18, **“Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.”**

The spirit of Antichrist is at work in this world today, but one day this spirit of Antichrist will find its ultimate fulfillment in ***THE ANTICHRIST!***

How can a man like this rise to power?

I believe this will occur in the midst of turmoil; nuclear war in the Middle East and maybe affecting the world, economic disasters, pollution, global warming and their so-called affects, the proliferation of guns, famine, whatever else he can use to gain this power.

Folks, we have seen this over and over again in our past history.

You see, it is very easy for Dictators to gain control as they offer solutions to difficult problems.

A sad example of this was seen in our recent past. Adolf Hitler came on the scene offering solutions to Germany's economic and political problems following World War I.

He made a promise to the people of Germany that they would rise to power once again and the people, desperate to find a way out of their problems, believed him.

And, over a short period of time the Nazi party grew strong, Hitler was appointed the Chancellor of Germany and from there he had absolute power. For the people, now it was too late!

As bad as Hitler was, he pales in comparison to what the Antichrist will be like and the evil he will perpetrate upon this land and its people!

Of this beast it says that he has seven heads, not literally, but symbolically.

And I feel that this is speaking of world empires.

In Revelation 17:9-10 we are told, **“Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.”**

Mountains speak of human government. Thus, five world empires have come and gone when John was writing this. The Egyptian, the Assyrian, the Babylonian, the Medo-Persian, and the Grecian empires have all risen to the zenith of power and then crumbled and fell.

Now it is the Roman Empire that was the one that was in existence during the time that John was writing this book.

The one that is to come is the last Gentile world empire before Jesus Christ comes to set-up His Kingdom here on the earth.

What does this last Gentile world kingdom look like?

Daniel tells us that this last Gentile world kingdom will be a federation of ten nations that come out of the old Roman Empire. It won't be as strong as the Roman Empire for it will be a mixture of ten nations, but it will still be powerful. (See Daniel 2:31-45)

Make no mistake about it, we are seeing this empire coming together today.

Some of you are very familiar with this, but I think it is important for us to understand that this dividing up of the world into kingdoms, has already been laid out but not enacted upon!

The Club of Rome had its beginnings in April of 1968, as leaders from ten countries gathered together in Rome.

This organization claims to have the solutions for world peace and prosperity, which are linked to a one-world government.

On September 17, 1973, the Club of Rome released a report entitled ***“Regionalized and Adaptive Model of the Global World System.”***

This document shows that the Club of Rome has divided the world into ten political/economic regions, which they refer to as, interestingly enough, ***“kingdoms.”***

We already have a written world constitution that has been developed by the World Constitution and Parliament Association.

Way back on February 17, 1950, James Warburg, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, (CFR was founded on July 29, 1921), said this before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, ***“We shall have world government whether or not you like it - by conquest or consent.”***

Today, seventy-one years later, we see these pieces of the puzzle for a one-world government coming together before our eyes.

This is what the Antichrist will rule over, a confederacy of ten nations which encompasses the world.

Thus, these ten horns come out of the old Roman Empire, which never was defeated, but kind of spread throughout the world. Many have tried to revive this empire, but they have failed. But there is coming a day when it will be established, and I think we are very close to this happening!

And that explains the ten horns and ten crowns we see here in Revelation 13:1.

The horns represent the ten nations, and the crowns are the crowns of kings or leaders of these nations!

The Blasphemous names are against the true and living God, for which sinful man opposes.

Daniel also speaks of the unbridled tongue of this man, the Antichrist, when he says in Daniel 7:25a, **“He shall speak pompous words against the Most High . . .”**

Let’s read on as John goes on to explain more about this man, the Antichrist!

VERSE 2

As I read the description of this beast it reminds me of the vision that Daniel had back in Daniel chapter 7 as he saw these Gentile world kingdoms, and different beasts represented them.

The only difference between what Daniel saw and what John saw was the order they are described.

Daniel speaks of the lion first, which represented the power and the strength of the Babylonian Empire.

He next speaks of the bear that is slow and yet powerful and it represented the Medo-Persian Empire. They had a massive army that did not move very fast, but they were very powerful, their great paws crushed their enemies.

Then Daniel saw a leopard, which represented the Grecian Empire who conquered its enemies very quickly, very swiftly, like a leopard!

Keep in mind as Daniel saw these kingdoms he was looking mostly into the future, except for the Babylonian Empire, which was in power at that time.

John, on the other hand is looking back into history and I believe the reverse order is as simple as that.

Now, this last empire, that is born out of the old Roman Empire, will have aspects of these three previous Gentile world empires and yet, this empire will be unparalleled in human history. This is Satan's last attempt to stop the reign of Christ, but he will not win out!

One writer put it like this, ***“Like the indescribable fourth beast of Daniel 7:7, which represents the Roman Empire - Antichrist's final empire will be a composite of all the empires that have gone before it. It will incorporate all the ferocity, viciousness, swiftness, and strength of the other world empires.”***

Now we don't have to wonder who will give the Antichrist his power, because John tells us. It is Satan who will give him the power to rule the world!

And I believe it will be Satan himself who will possess this man.

In history there has only been one other instance that we know of where Satan has possessed someone himself, and that was Judas Iscariot. We are told of this in Luke 22:3, which says, **“Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.”**

The other person that Satan will indwell is the Antichrist and I believe this takes place at the 3½-year mark of the 7-year Tribulation Period as Satan is cast out of heaven, the Antichrist goes into the rebuilt Temple and demands to be worshiped as God!

After that all hell breaks out on the earth as the Antichrist leashes his hatred against the Jews and against those who have come to Christ, both Jew and Gentile!

VERSE 3

Who or what is this that is mortally wounded and comes back to life?

Scofield feels this is speaking of the Roman Empire that has been resurrected. He said, *“Fragments of the ancient Roman Empire have never ceased to exist as separate kingdoms. It was this imperial form of government which ceased; the one head wounded to death.”*

And there are others who feel it is speaking of the Roman Empire. But I don't believe that is what is being said, I don't believe that is a correct interpretation of this verse and when I show you what I believe the text is saying, you will see how this all fits together, leading to a specific outcome, the worship of the beast!

And let's think this through because there are several difficulties with that view.

The most obvious problem is that while Revelation 13:3 speaks of **“one of the heads as if it had been mortally wounded”** we see other passages specify that the beast himself is slain. You will find that in Revelation 13:12, 13:14.

I see this as an assassination attempt upon the Antichrist and I will show you why I believe that is what this verse is saying.

First of all, we need to remember that Satan is a counterfeit, he pretends to be God the Father, but he is not!

Then you have the false prophet, who we will look at next time, and he is a false type of the Holy Spirit.

Then who is left?

The Antichrist and he pretends to be God the Son or Jesus, the Messiah.

You see, what we are seeing is an unholy trinity counterfeiting the true Holy Trinity of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit!

Thus, the Antichrist, being a false Christ, has an assassination attempt on his life.

You see, that phrase “**as if it had been mortally wounded**” or HOS ESPHA GMENEN in the Greek is the same expression we find in Revelation 5:6, which speaks of Christ, and says, “**And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.**”

But the truth of the matter here is that these are not the same events, what Christ did and what the Antichrist supposedly did are worlds apart!

Here is what I believe is happening here.

I do believe there is an assassination attempt on the life of the Antichrist, but he does not die. He appears dead, but he is still alive. In other words, the Antichrist is faking his death and resurrection back to life.

You see, God alone has power over life and death, but the Antichrist will pull this off and I would not be surprised at all if this fake death lasts for three days and three nights before he has his pseudo-resurrection!

You see, as the Tribulation Saints point people to Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection, the world will point to the Antichrist, showing that he did the same thing.

Thus, their conclusion will be that he must be God, but he is not!

In Zechariah 11:15-17 he speaks of the false shepherd, and he is going to give to us some insight into his assassination attempt.

Now, don't think this is speaking of the false prophet, for a shepherd leads the people and that is what this Antichrist will do, lead people away from the true and living God.

Thus, we are told in Zechariah **“And the LORD said to me, ‘Next, take for yourself the implements of a foolish shepherd. For indeed I will raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for those who are cut off, nor seek the young, nor heal those that are broken, nor feed those that still stand. But he will eat the flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces. Woe to the worthless shepherd, Who leaves the flock! A sword shall be against his arm And against his right eye; His arm shall completely wither, And his right eye shall be totally blinded.’”**

And in Revelation 13:14 we are told, **“And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.”**

Thus, the world will worship the beast thinking he is God! They reject the true God, Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection, but they will receive this false god and will worship him instead!

And again, I want you to be clear on this. This beast is not this world government, it is speaking of a man, even though he is closely linked to this end-times world-dominating government.

Seiss makes some interesting comments regarding this that if you are still not sure if the beast is the world-government or the Antichrist, he clears it up for us.

This is what he wrote,

“The Beast is worshipped as a god; but people never worship an empire as such; neither do they make a succession of emperors into an object of religious devotion. The paying of divine homage to kings has been a common thing in the world’s history, but it has always been rendered to individuals.”

“This Beast also has a proper name – a name expressive of a particular number, and that number ‘a number of a man;’ which cannot be conceived except on the idea of an individual person.”

“This Beast is finally damned. He goes to perdition, into the lake of fire, where he continues to exist and suffer, after passing from this earthly scene (Revelation 17:11; 20:10), which cannot be true of systems of government.”

“The antichrist is also called the son of perdition (2 Thessalonians 2:3), as was Judas (John 17:12). Judas was a man, not a system or a government, so it follows that the antichrist will also be a man, not a system or a government.”

And Seiss concludes by saying, *“We would therefore greatly err from the Scriptures, as well as from the unanimous conviction and teaching of the early Church, were we to fail to recognize this Beast as a real person, though one in whom the political power of the world is finally concentrated and represented.”*

And now John tells us more of how the world will respond to this man, the Antichrist!

VERSE 4

Satan desires to be worshiped and thus, we not only see the Antichrist being worshiped here, but also the Dragon or Satan.

You see, Satan's fall was based upon his rebellion against God, that he wanted to be worshiped as God.

We see this in Isaiah 14:12-17, **“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, And consider you, saying: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?’”**

Now he has what he wanted but it will be short-lived! The Antichrist is in power, and people are worshiping him and Satan!

But, as Paul reminds us in II Thessalonians 2:8, **“And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.”**

The Lord will deal with him at the appointed time that He has set, as God's plans are completed!

The Bible tells us that deception is a big part of the last days and we are seeing that even today. I want you to see how deceived the people are as they say, **“... ‘Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’”** Revelation 13:4.

Man may not be able to destroy this man of sin, even this so-called assassination attempt and his pseudo-resurrection, but he is never going to be able to stand before God!

And folks, when you remove the true and living God from the picture, you will worship someone or something!

Arnold Toynbee, an English Historian, put it this way when he said back in 1953, *“By forcing on mankind more and more lethal weapons, and at the same time making the world more and more interdependent economically, technology has brought mankind to such a degree of distress that we are ripe for deifying any new Caesar who might succeed in bringing the world unity and peace.”*

That is what Satan is preparing the world for, the unleashing of the Antichrist!

VERSES 5-6

For 3½ years he is going to have power over the people of this world. Yes, he is the leader of the world government for 7 years, but it is at that 3½ year mark that Satan enters him and he demands to be worshiped as God.

And by his actions you might call him, *“Mr. Big Mouth!”*

Why do I say that?

Because he will open his mouth and speak as he pleases, blaspheming the true and living God and those that worship the true and living God!

We are told of these words that he speaks in Daniel 11:36, **“Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.”**

Also, in Daniel 7:25 we are told, “**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.**”

I want you to notice how he speaks against God.

John tells us of four different ways he does this.

He speaks first of all against God Himself.

He speaks against His name, which reflects His character.

He speaks against God’s tabernacle or the dwelling place of God. To the Jew, it reminded them of the glory of God or the presence of God, the *SHEKINAH* glory.

And he speaks against those who dwell in heaven.

Why does he do that

Remember back in Revelation chapter 12, Satan and his demons were cast from the presence of God, and he can no longer accuse the saints of God before God. So now he uses the Antichrist to blaspheme God and His saints who dwell in heaven, those who will rule and reign with the Lord upon this earth as Jesus sets up His Kingdom.

Make no mistake about it, the Antichrist is the ultimate blasphemer and like I have said, I think he is Jewish.

VERSE 7

Make no mistake about it. The Antichrist is not all talk and no action. He will come after those who believe in Jesus Christ and destroy them.

In fact, in Revelation 20:4 we see how he will do this, “**. . . Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**”

You see, if you refuse to worship him, the Antichrist, it will most likely cost you your life!

Now this is important for us to understand. It says, “**And it was granted to him to make war with the saints . . .**”

Who are these saints spoken of here in Revelation chapter 13?

Here is the problem for some. When they see this word “**saints**” or HAGIOS in the Greek, they assume it is the church, but that is not always the case. Let me explain.

You see, in the Old Testament we see the Jewish people called saints or ones that have been set apart by God.

In the New Testament, yes, we do see the church or God’s people spoken of as saints.

But also, during the Tribulation Period we see these Tribulation Believers called saints and I believe this is the group of people that the Antichrist is going after, these Tribulation Saints!

Now some may argue that this is my idea, this is what I believe, and they believe it is the church. It can’t be. And again, I am dogmatic about this one because I think the Scriptures are very clear on this.

The reason this can't be the Church, besides the fact that the Church is Raptured before the Tribulation Period begins, is what Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, "**And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**"

You see, the Church is not going to be overcome by Satan and the Antichrist, but these Tribulation Saints will be overcome, many will lose their lives, he will try to stomp them out!

And as you look at this, you can clearly see how this beast has absolute rule and universal authority over the entire world!

And I think Revelation 7 is very clear on who these saints are as we are told, "**After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' . . . Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, 'Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?' And I said to him, 'Sir, you know.' So he said to me, 'These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.'**"

Revelation 7:9-10, 13-15.

Notice they came out of the Tribulation Period, these are Tribulation Saints and not the church! I hope that is clear!

VERSE 8

This is very clear. If you reject Jesus as Lord and Savior and worship the Beast your name will be blotted out of the Book of Life, and you will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire.

It is as Revelation 3:5 tells us, **“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”**

I believe that everyone’s name is written in the Book of Life and the reason it is blotted out is because of a person’s rejection of Jesus as Lord and Savior. The idea is that everyone has an opportunity to be saved, but not all will receive that free gift of life, and thus, their names will be blotted out of the Book of Life!

When does that happen? I believe when the person dies, their names are removed if they have not received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior

Now this verse here in Revelation seems to be saying that those unbelievers never had their name written in the Book of Life, which is right?

God knows the name of each person who will be saved because He knows all things. And again, when they die, there is no more chances, and their names are removed from the Book of Life! But God sees the end results and their names, those who have rejected Him, are not in!

VERSE 9

Here is one of those interesting little nuggets that God has for us.

In Revelation chapters 2 and 3 we saw the phrase **“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches . . .”** repeated some 7 times.

But here in chapter 13 we see that the church is left out.

Why?

Like we have seen in our study of Revelation and here tonight, the church has been Raptured unto the Lord back in Revelation chapter 4, prior to the start of the Tribulation Period.

And thus, this message is no longer for them, the message is for those who are alive during the Tribulation Period, and they need to pay attention to what God is saying! It is not only hearing the truths of God but applying them to your life! You see, you can't serve two masters! Today is the day of salvation, don't wait.

Think about all the death and destruction for those in the Tribulation Period. And for those who reject the Lord, ultimately the Lake of Fire.

In knowing that, why would you reject the free gift of life that Jesus has for you? That is foolish and yet, the fool has said in his heart that there is no God and one day they will find out they were wrong. (Psalm 14:1, Psalm 53:1)

But the warning is clear. Hear these words and then act upon them!

VERSE 10

Satan has come to kill, to destroy lives and we see that is true of the Antichrist. As much as he began his reign, you might say, in peace, that is not what he is about and now we see the persecution he is spewing forth against God's people during the Tribulation Period!

Yes, the Antichrist may take their lives, but he can't take away their faith!

And make no mistake about it, Satan is a deceiver and so is the Antichrist.

Isaiah 14:17 speaks of Satan "**Who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?**" [Or would not release them]

It is Satan that is leading the masses into captivity. And thus, it is Satan and his forces that will be taken captive.

We as Christians know he is against us and the work we are doing. You see, he is against all those who hold to faith in Jesus.

The encouragement that John gives to us is spoken of as our *PATIENCE* and *FAITH*.

The word “**Patience,**” HUPOMONE in the Greek, speaks of courageously accepting the worst that life, or the enemy can do to you, and turning it around to glorify God. Endure till the end!

The Christian life is a long-distance race, not a sprint!

Our “**faith,**” PISTIS in the Greek, speaks of our love unto God, which will never wavier in its devotion to Him. And that is true even during the darkest time.

Remember the fifth seal, which spoke of the Tribulation Saints, martyred for their faith. We read in Revelation chapter 6, beginning in verse 9, “**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?’ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.**”

That is faith in action and should encourage us that word’s people say against us or even the sword cannot destroy our witness or our faith in God.

Now let me say this about this little proverb here in Revelation 13:10. This can also apply to Christians living during the time of the Antichrist's reign. They are to depend on the providence of God and not take matters into their own hands.

That is a tough one, I understand.

But look at the first century Christians. Did they take up arms against the Roman government? No, they did not.

From a human standpoint, did they have the right to come against the Roman government?

Yes, they did, without a doubt. They were being put to death, persecuted for their faith in Christ, they did not break any laws!

Now you may be thinking, *“What good would that do by not retaliating? Wouldn't it be better to be alive and be able to share the Gospel than dead? So let's destroy them before they destroy us!”*

Sounds right, but you have to look at what came about by their actions.

Through their martyrdom thousands came to Jesus, it was a witness to the people of their faith and that I think is what we will also see with these Tribulation Saints, their martyrdom will be a witness of their faith!

How can I be so sure?

Listen to what we are told of this Tribulation Saints in Revelation 12:11, and this is from The Amplified Bible. It says, **“And they have overcome (conquered) him by means of the blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony, for they did not love and cling to life even when faced with death [holding their lives cheap till they had to die for their witnessing].”**

And Peter reminds us in I Peter 4:19, **“Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.”**

The Living Bible puts this verse like this, **“So if you are suffering according to God’s will, keep on doing what is right and trust yourself to the God who made you, for he will never fail you.”**

One writer summed it up like this for us. He wrote, *“If the Christian takes the sword, he will not establish the faith, for the truth of Christ cannot be defended by violence. He will simply perish by the sword. But the persecuted can know that the last word is not with the persecutors. This is not fatalism, but the conviction that God is sovereign and works out his good and perfect will [sometimes through ways that don’t seem to make sense to us].”*

May we have faith as the three Hebrew captives had as they refused to worship the image and were being threatened with being killed in the fiery furnace.

We read in Daniel 3:16-18, **“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, ‘O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.’”**

No matter the outcome, they trusted in the Lord, they rested in Him! May we do no less!

The enemy will be captured, he will lose, we know the end of the story, which should keep us moving, and it should spur us to action!

This evening, as I close, we have seen the rise to power of the Antichrist, whose authority was given to him by Satan himself.

Next time we will be looking at the false prophet who will lead the world in the worship of this man and Satan.

A sad state for the world to be in but it is a prelude to the coming of Jesus Christ.

Continue forging ahead in the faith, don't give up, don't be weighed down by the things of this world, don't drop out of the race!

As Paul said, "**Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**" I Corinthians 15:58.

Folks, God is victorious, and He will rule and reign on this earth very soon!

Keep your eyes focused heavenward so that you can minister to the people of this earth, those that do not know the Lord! Draw near to God and He will draw near to you!