

THE FINAL HUMAN DICTATOR

(Part 2---Revelation 13)

Illus: Pictures of **Lion** and **Bear**. Beautiful animals ... BUT---people get too close and lose limbs and sometimes their lives. (Lions kill about 250 people on average every year). **Wild beasts are very beautiful but also very deadly.**

Same is true here of **two beasts in Rev 13**. They will amaze and captivate the world in the last 3.5 years before Christ's return:

"Who is like the Beast...?" BUT.....

They will deceive nearly everyone on earth and get them to take a mark of loyalty that will result in eternal damnation for all who take it.

As we saw last week, the Bible calls the first beast (the political and military leader) "The Man of Sin" and the second beast (the religious leader), "The False Prophet." To unbelievers, they will appear heroic and brilliant, but, God pictures them as deadly animals.

This morning, let's begin where we left off last week with the first beast, the Man of Sin. What do we learn about Him?

The Beast will...

1. Appear swiftly, violently, and powerfully (13:1-2a)

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. ^{2a} 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.

7 heads, 10 horns (like the dragon in Rev 12). The Beast's kingdom is really Satan's kingdom.

Leopard (speed); Bear (claws, violent); Lion (mouth, powerful growl).

2 Thessalonians 2:9----⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders...

2. Acquire his authority and power only with Satan's help (13:2b-3a)

^{2b} The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. ³ And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed.

Satan offered Christ "all the kingdoms of the world" for worship. Jesus refused. The Beast will accept, but glory will last only 3.5 years!!!!

Lesson: Satan gives temporary “rewards,” but God gives eternal rewards!

(Comments on the **deadly wound** in v. 3---resurrection from the dead)

3. Attain the admiration, obedience, and worship of mankind

(13:3b-4)

^{3b} And all the world **marveled** and **followed** the beast. ⁴ 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?”

Satan is an angel of darkness who transforms himself into an angel of light, and the Beast is like him. He will be so incredible in the eyes of mankind that they will marvel at him and worship him.

4. Aim to accomplish several malicious objectives

(13:5-10)

A. To defame God’s character (13:5a, 6)

^{5a} And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies ... ⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

He doesn’t deny God’s existence...he insults Him with malicious words (his quest is to eventually murder ALL of God’s people...)

B. To destroy God’s people (13:5b, 7a)

^{5b} ...and he was given authority to continue [power to make war] for forty-two months ... ^{7a} It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them.

Attempt: destroy Israel---make God a liar!!!! Many martyrs!

Lesson: We do not wrestle against flesh and blood...

C. To deceive the godless (13:7b-8)

^{7b} And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸ 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.

Satan gives him power to dominate all mankind. They will be deceived into doing his bidding and like all who listen to Satan rather than God, pay an eternal price.

(Quick word to unsaved!!!!)

5. **Appoint a false prophet to assist him in deceiving mankind** (13:11-18)

Throughout history, nearly every religious movement has found it necessary to have its own prophet, probably because the true religion found in the Word of God is prophetic in nature. As a result, most false religions also claim to be verified by prophecy. The final world religion will be no exception.

First of all, the False Prophet will assist the Man of Sin...

A. With deceptive words and worship (13:11-12)

¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. ¹² And he exercises all the authority **of the first beast in his** presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

He looks like a lamb (innocent), but speaks like a dragon (Satanic lies).

Lesson: Beware of F prophets!! Test the spirits against the Word of God ! Don't be deceived!

B. With amazing miracles (13:13-15)

Satan (through the False Prophet) will do "lying wonders"---miracles that deceive.

¹³ He performs great signs, so that he even makes **fire come down from heaven on the earth** in the sight of men. ¹⁴ 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**. ¹⁵ He was granted power to **give breath to the image of the beast**, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

C. With an ingenious mark (13:16-18)

He will institute a world-wide economic system which results in the eternal damnation of all who participate (the Mark of the Beast).

¹⁶ He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ **and that no one may buy** or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. ¹⁸ **Here is wisdom. Let him** who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

Application:

Believers-----are you listening carefully to God, or being deceived by the world, the flesh, and the devil? (Comments)

To those who have not yet believed-----if Jesus were to return today, would you be ready? Or would you be left behind to endure seven years of misery and the two Beasts we spoke of this morning?

Jesus is ready to save you! (Comments)