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A0611—March 12, 2006 – Rev 13:11-18 – The Beast Out Of The Earth

Revelation 13:11 And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had (imperfect) horns two like a lamb and he spoke (imperfect) like a dragon.

The first beast came out of the sea (13:1). The second beast comes ***out of the earth***. Many think this means the false prophet is a Jew on the basis that he comes ***out of the earth***. This interpretation is built on identifying the “sea” in 13:1 as Gentile nations and then contrasting that with the “earth” in 13:11 which must then refer to the Jews. In some cases “sea” does refer to the Gentile nations but not here because the “sea” is equivalent to the “abyss” in Rev 11:7. The “abyss” was the origin of the terrible demonic locusts in Rev 9 and the “sea” was considered the origin of the most terrifying monsters and demons. So the Antichrist will be a very powerful, very terrible, monster of a man with demonic doctrines. As per the second beast, there is not enough data to designate his ethnic background. God’s intention by saying he is a second beast coming out of the earth is to compare and contrast the terribleness of these two beasts to one another. In ancient thought, beasts out of the sea were considered the most terrifying. A beast out of the earth was terrible but not as terrible as a beast out of the sea. Another contrast is that the beast out of the sea has ten horns while the beast out of the earth has only ***two horns***.



THE FALSE PROPHET

Both of these contrasts show that the ***beast out of the earth*** is inferior to the beast out of the sea. However, they are both terrible because John says ***I saw another beast*** which means “another of the same kind” (*allo*). Since the beast out of the sea is a man then the

beast out of the earth is also a man and not a religious system like Roman Catholicism. That they are both men is confirmed by the fact that their destiny is the “lake of fire”.

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

People not institutions are thrown into the lake of fire (also cf 20:10). His identification as the “false prophet” shows his religious nature and he will lead the world in worship of the Antichrist. Is he a future Pope? I don’t know. It’s possible. Whoever he is, he is a terrible man but not as terrible as the Antichrist. He is the third and final member of the unholy Trinity.

The Unholy Trinity

The Dragon = the Anti-Father (12:1-18)

Beast out of the sea = the Anti-Christ (13:1-10)

Beast out of the earth = the Anti-Spirit (13:11-18)

This beast looks like a gentle *lamb* but he speaks like a *dragon* (i.e. Satan from chapter 12). Looks can be deceiving. What counts is what is said. Jesus warned of false prophets that come in sheep’s clothing (Matt 7:15). That is, they look gentle like lambs, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. Jesus also taught that the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart (Matt 12:34). Jesus was warning the world not to be deceived by appearance but to listen carefully to what is said. So, the false prophet will look like a gentle *lamb* but what comes out of his mouth will reveal his true quality as a ravenous wolf. Only those who have wisdom will be able to detect that his words are Satanic in origin (Dan 12:10; Rev 13:18). He is Satan’s instrument of inspiration as the Holy Spirit is the Father’s instrument of inspiration (2 Pet 1:21).

A final contrast between the Antichrist and the False Prophet are their tactics. The first beast makes loud boasts and outwardly blasphemes God (13:1, 5-6). The False Prophet is subtle and deceptive, using smooth seductive speech to deceive people and lead them to ultimate ruin. This is the same tactic Satan used to deceive Eve through the serpent in the garden (Gen 3:1-7; cf Rev 12:9). The human race continues and will continue to fall for the same seductive deceptions (Rev 12:9) because they are not armed with the word of God (Eph 6:17).

Revelation 13:12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast before him, and he causes the earth and those thoroughly settled in it that they will worship the first beast, whose (neuter) wound of death was healed.

As the Holy Spirit directs our worship to Christ so the Anti-Spirit will direct the worlds worship to the Anti-Christ. The techniques he will use to accomplish this are extremely deceptive and convincing. ***he exercises all the authority of the first beast before him***, that is, under his supervision. The two have a close connection.

and he causes the earth and those thoroughly settled in it to worship the first beast.

This is a global expression. He is not successful in causing all the earth's inhabitants to worship the Antichrist but most will be deceived by his cunning speech and tremendous miracles. The ***first beast*** here is identified as the one ***whose wound of death was healed***. Remember, the ***first beast*** is also one of the "heads". In 13:3 one of the "heads was slain" but here it says the ***beast*** was slain. So, this refers to the Antichrist being slain. Normally, the kind of wound he will receive would result in death but in this unique case it will not because Satan will supernaturally intervene. I think he will be wounded near the end of the 1st half of the Tribulation during the battle often known as Gog and Magog (Ezek 38-39) which includes a king from the north (Gog, peoples from the north such as Gomer, et. al.) and south (Ethiopia, Put = Libya) converging on Israel (Dan 11:40ff). The false prophet will direct the worlds worship toward this man who counterfeits the resurrection of Christ.

Revelation 13:13 And he does great signs, so that he may even make fire come down out of heaven into the earth before mankind,

The False Prophet will do ***great signs***. Jesus did signs and miracles but warned of counterfeit signs that would indicate the arrival of false Christs and false prophets.

Matthew 24:24-27 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ "Behold, I have told you in advance. ²⁶ "So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, *or*, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe *them*. ²⁷ "For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

These ***great signs*** will not be trickery, sleight of hand, pyrotechnics or magic. They will be bonafide miracles designed to confirm the Antichrist's doctrines and lead the earth's

inhabitants to ruin. They will be so convincing that they will almost deceive the elect! But they will recognize them for what they are as they read Matt 24 (cf Matt 24:15). In verse 26 Jesus warned that one of the major purposes of these **great signs** is to draw out the Israelites who escaped to the mountains (Rev 12:6, 14) so that the Antichrist can annihilate them. Remember, Satan hates the woman and passes this anger on to the Antichrist.

One of the **great signs** he will be able to do is ***make fire come down out of heaven into the earth***. This ability is similar to Elijah calling down fire out of heaven (2 Ki 1:10ff, also see Gen 19:24; Luke 9:54). The only difference is the source of the fire. God was the source of Elijah's fire. Satan will be the source of the false prophet's fire. This **great sign** will deceive many.

Revelation 13:14 and he deceives the one's thoroughly settled upon the earth through the signs that were given to him to do before the beast, saying to the one's thoroughly settled upon the earth to make a statue to the beast, who has the wound of the sword and lived (remained alive).

and he deceives the one's thoroughly settled upon the earth through the signs. earth dwellers is a semi-technical phrase throughout Revelation. It always refers to those in rebellion against God, the unregenerate. He will attempt to **deceive** all earth's inhabitants and the **signs** will be extremely persuasive and convincing but the believer's will be keeping their eyes on Scripture and as such will not be deceived. But the unregenerate will be completely deceived.¹ The word **deceives** is *plana* and was used by the ancients of wandering planets whose course could not be predicted. The unregenerate will be like these wandering planets having no sure course. The Holy Spirit draws men to God's truth. The False Prophet will draw men to Satan's lies. So, the key characteristic of the false prophet is "deception". He will deceive men into believing the greatest deception of all time, that the Antichrist is God.

saying to the one's thoroughly settled upon the earth to make a statue to the beast. This statue (*eikon*) is the second aspect of the abomination of desolation. The first aspect is the Antichrist himself stopping the sacrifice in the Tribulation Temple which will happen in the middle of the Tribulation (Dan 9:27). The second aspect of the abomination of desolation is the setting up of a statue to remain in the Tribulation Temple. This is known as the "the overspreading of abominations" mentioned in Dan 9:27.

Daniel 9:27 even unto the overspreading of abominations of desolation, even what has been determined shall be poured out upon the desolate, unto the end.
(translation by Leon Wood)

It will remain in the Tribulation Temple for 1,290 days which is 30 days after the end of the Tribulation (cf Dan 12:11).

Daniel 12:11 "From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there will be* 1,290 days.

Then the statue will be destroyed. What will this image be? It's not exactly clear but it is similar to the statue of Nebuchadnezzar described in Daniel 2 and which Daniel and his friends refused to bow down to and worship (Dan 3:4-6).



It was for this reason they were thrown in the fiery furnace. Those who refuse to worship this statue of the Antichrist will suffer a similar fate, death (Rev 13:15).

The last phrase of this verse discusses the death wound of the **beast. who has the wound of the sword and lived (remained alive)**. It reveals how the Anitchrist is wounded. Apparently he will be wounded by the **sword**. The last words **and lived** are the aorist of *zao* and can be translated **remained alive**. So, he received a death blow by a sword but **remained alive** (cf BAGD, 425). He never truly dies even though the death blow would normally be fatal. The whole world thinks that he did die because no one in the history of the human race has ever survived such a wound. So, it is supernatural that he remains alive. This event counterfeits the resurrection of Christ and will convince the world that the Antichrist is unique and unable to be defeated (cf 13:4).

Revelation 13:15 And it was given to him to give breath to the statue of the beast, that the statue of the beast may even speak and it cause [in order that] whoever may not worship the statue of the beast may be killed.

The miracles done here are remarkable. Apparently, the false prophet will be given the power ***to give breath to the statue of the beast***. This is the ***breath*** of life. Some say the image will only appear to breathe but this is difficult to reconcile with the rest of the verse which says that the statue will be able to ***speak*** and ***kill*** those who don't worship him. Attempts have been made to explain this away but this is not a magic trick or hologram. It appears to be genuine. The remarkable nature of this sign is one of the reasons the elect will almost be deceived (Matt 24:23).

Not only will it be able to ***speak*** but it will be able to ***kill*** those who do not ***worship*** him. This is very similar to the requirement placed on Daniel and his friends. They were required to worship the statue of Nebuchadnezzar. When they refused they were put in the fiery furnace. The only difference is that this statue will be able to kill. As we will see, all who worship this statue will also receive the mark of the beast. So, those who worship the statue and those who take the mark of the beast are one and the same group. They are all unregenerate.

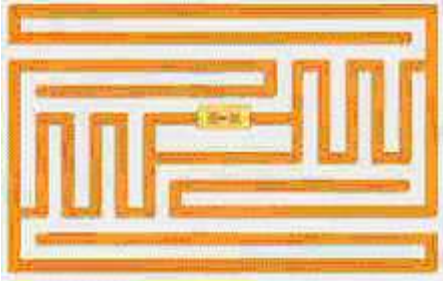
Revelation 13:16 And he made everyone, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the slave, that they may give them a mark upon their right hand or upon their forehead

The false prophet will ***make everyone*** from these three classes receive ***a mark upon their right hand or upon their forehead***.ⁱⁱ The point is that everyone will be required to take the ***mark***.

There is a lot of speculation about the ***mark*** but the Greek is perfectly clear. *First*, the location of the mark is on the most visible parts of the body; ***upon the right hand or upon the forehead***. The Greek text is very clear that the mark is on the surface and not beneath the surface or implanted within the hand or forehead. Had he wanted to say "beneath or under" the surface of the right hand or forehead he would have used the Greek preposition *hupo*. If he wanted to say "within the hand or forehead" he would have used the Greek preposition *en*. Instead, he used the Greek preposition *epi* which means "upon" and refers to the visible surface of the right hand or forehead. Some have supposed that the mark is invisible and will only show up under a special light (like

invisible ink). However, the purpose of it being upon the right hand or forehead is so it will be immediately visible.

Second, is the mark a Radio-Frequency Identification Device (RFID) as claimed by many popular prophecy teachers?ⁱⁱⁱ The predecessor of RFID technology were covert espionage devices invented by Leon Theremin for the Soviets in 1945. Modern RFID's have many applications.^{iv}



Some of these RFID's can be surgically implanted under the skin leading many popular prophecy teachers to conclude that the mark will be one of these implanted devices. However, these devices are under (*hupo*) the skin which is contrary to the Greek text which says it will be upon (*epi*) the skin. Further, the Greek word for mark means “an etching or branding”.



There are two fallacies behind these kinds of interpretations. First, the basic fallacy is interpreting the Bible in light of cultural events rather than interpreting cultural events in light of the Bible. Hal Lindsay got in this problem a lot. He said the rapture would take place in 1988. His reasoning was based on the birth of the Israeli state in 1948. He just added “one generation” or 40 years to conclude that the rapture must take place in 1948 + 40 years or 1988. This can't even be categorized as Bible study. Second, it is a fallacy to assume that advanced technology will be available during the 2nd half of the Tribulation. That kind of assumption overlooks the tremendous destruction caused by the first six seals (Rev 6:1-17). For example, Hal Lindsay speculated that the demonic locusts in Rev 9 were helicopters. These interpretations fail to take into account the FACT that the

world will be in a state of utter chaos and destruction after the first six seals (Rev 6:1-17). Under the 4th Seal ¼ of the worlds population was killed (if that were today 03/01/06 that would be 1.6 billion people). Under the 6th Seal the heavens and the earth will be shaken. Most likely every satellite will be destroyed during this cataclysmic judgment (6:13). The earthquake will move every mountain and island (6:14). It is hard to imagine after such cataclysms that modern forms of communication are instantly resurrected since the 6th Seal will occur just days or months before the mark of the beast will be required to buy or sell. Apparently some form of communication will be possible but it will be primitive and not advanced. If so, that answers why the mark will be a simple brand or tattoo upon the skin. The bottom line is that the world's living conditions will become primitive because the world is being destroyed by God's cataclysmic judgments.

The mark (*charagma*) is the counterfeit of the seal (*sphragis*) given to the 144,000 Jews in Rev 7. The seal given to the 144,000 Jews was also "upon the surface of the forehead" (cf. Rev 7:3; 14:1) and was visible to John (Rev 7:2). It was a visible sign of ownership and served as a witness of their devotion to Jesus Christ. The mark of the beast will be "upon the right hand or forehead" and will serve to show they are his possessions and his full devotees. The seal on the 144,000 will be the Lamb's name and the name of His father (cf Rev 14:1). The mark of the beast will be the name of the beast or the number of his name (cf Rev 13:17). Therefore, it will not be a bar code or a credit card. Bar codes and credit cards (unless they had the same number) are purchasing devices that distinguish each person. But the mark of the beast is not a purchasing device but is required to purchase with a purchasing device. Nor is the mark meant to distinguish one person from another. It is meant to serve as a visible sign of ownership and witness their devotion to Antichrist. Just as the seal on each of the 144,000 Jews will be identical so the mark of the beast will be only the name of the beast or the number of his name which are equivalent. The word for mark is *charagma* and was derived from the verb *charasso* which means "to engrave. So, the **mark** must be some kind of "brand" or "tattoo". In John's day masters often branded their slaves with a special mark of their owners (Gal 6:17); much like branding cattle with a rancher's insignia. Such marks designate ownership. Here we have the same thing. The Lamb and the Father own the 144,000 Jewish witnesses. But the Antichrist owns those who take his mark. Whoever has a mark shows that he is a slave of the Antichrist. So, the purpose of the mark is to designate ownership. The purpose is not so it can be scanned at the supermarket check-out. It will be a pre-requisite to buying or selling if you have some form of money. Most likely, those who don't have the mark won't be able to safely walk into supermarkets to get food.

SEAL OF GOD		MARK OF THE BEAST
<i>sphragis</i>	GREEK WORD	<i>charagma</i>
Not enough data	WHAT IS IT?	An etching or branding
Upon forehead	WHERE IS IT?	Upon forehead or right hand
Yes	IS IT VISIBLE?	Yes
Lamb's name and Father's name	WHAT WILL IT SAY?	Name of Antichrist or number of His name
Owned by Lamb and Father	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?	Owned by Antichrist

If someone is spotted without the mark they will be arrested and commanded to take the mark of the beast (Rev 13:16 “and he made everyone”). If they refuse to take the mark they will either be sent to concentration camps or they will be killed (Rev 13:9-10). The idea that they will be killed by guillotines comes from Rev 20:4 where it speaks of them being “beheaded” (*pelekizo*). The word means “to cut off with an ax”. The saints are to faithfully endure whatever God has destined for them. It would be unfaithful to try and mimic the mark of the beast. To mimic the mark of the beast would be a form of deception and idolatry since the mark signifies ownership by the Antichrist. The thing to do during this time is to “steadfastly endure”, not try to fight or cheat the beast or his system. The witness of Christ will be carried forward by those who faithfully endure. It is un-Christian to try to deceive and contrary to Christ’s command to faithfully endure whatever He has destined them for (13:9-10).

Revelation 13:17 even so that no one may be able to buy or to sell if he is not having the mark, the name of the beast or the number of his name.

The purchasing of goods will be contingent upon one having the **mark**. This points to the fact that the economy during the 2nd half of the Tribulation will be a “one-world economy” under the rules and regulations of the Antichrist. His regulations state that no one can **buy or sell** anything without **having the mark**.^v This will put pressure on people to become worshippers of the beast by taking the mark. Here is **the mark**; it is either **the name of the beast or the number of his name**. The name of the beast and the number of his name are one and the same since the letters of his name have numerical values. In both the Hebrew and Greek alphabets each letter has a numerical equivalent.^{vi}

Revelation 13:18 *Here is the wisdom. The one having a mind count out (imperative) the number of the beast, for a number is of a man, and the number of him six hundred sixty six.*

Here is wisdom. This is the introduction of a riddle. The word *wisdom* is *sophia* and means “skill” in solving the riddle. This is parallel to Dan 12:10 which says those having insight will understand but the wicked will not understand. Let me say some things up front before getting into 666 and all of that. First, according to Scripture the Antichrist cannot be identified by anyone *before* the rapture. It’s a waste of time to try and figure it out.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it [*the day of the Lord* from verse 2) *will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

Since “the day of the Lord” begins with the Tribulation this verse proves that two things must take place before the Tribulation begins.

1. the apostasy
2. the revealing of the man of lawlessness

The “apostasy” will take place when every believer is removed from earth. After this the man of lawlessness will be revealed. Both of these events happen *after* the rapture but *before* the day of the Lord. So, they take place between the rapture and the Tribulation. For the man of lawlessness to be revealed the restrainer must be removed.

2 Thessalonians 2:7-8 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way. ⁸ Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

Thus, the order of events is as follows:

1. the rapture
2. the apostasy
3. the restrainer taken out of the way
4. the man of lawlessness revealed
5. the tribulation begins (i.e. the day of the Lord)

So, it is impossible for anyone to figure out this riddle and identify the Antichrist *before* the rapture. One wise author said, “If you ever do figure out who the Antichrist is, I’ve got bad news for you, you’ve been left behind” (*Gathering Storm*, 204). However, it will be possible to discover who the Antichrist is just before or about the time the tribulation begins.

In that day, the solution to the riddle will come by **counting numbers** (*psephisato ton arithmon*). It is a mathematical solution. Some scholars (preterists) have claimed the Greek form of “Neron Caesar” written in Hebrew letters equals 666 and so he was the Antichrist (e.g. Schaff, Gentry) but this solution is untenable (see Mal Couch, *The Gathering Storm*, pp 197-208). As you probably know many people have been pegged as the Antichrist.

- Neron Caesar
- Domitian
- Caligula
- Hitler
- Henry Kissinger
- Lyndon Johnson
- JFK
- Gorbachev
- Ronald Reagan
- Bill Gates III
- MS DOS 6.21
- Windows 95
- System 7.0

None of these people are or were the antichrist. We could go through the phone book all day long and find many names whose numerical equivalent is 666. The problem is that the Antichrist will not be revealed until the restrainer is taken out of the way (2 Thess 2:2-8). So, this riddle is for those living in the Tribulation not for believers living today. It is a waste of time to try to figure it out. It can’t be done.

The better part of wisdom is to be content that the identification is not yet available...^{vii}

The one who has wisdom in that day will attempt to solve the riddle by counting out the numerical equivalents of the Greek or Hebrew names of certain men to discover the

identity of the Antichrist before he assumes his position of power. Who he is will be apparent once the mark is issued.

CONCLUSION

Today we saw another beast, this one coming out of the earth rather than out of the sea. He only has two horns as opposed to ten horns. He is thus inferior to the first beast and yet he is terrible and speaks as Satan. He is also known as the false prophet and is the third member of the Satanic Trinity. The first member is Satan who is the Anti-Father, the second member is the first beast, who is the Anti-Christ, and the third member is the second beast, who is the Anti-Spirit. This Anti-Spirit is able to exercise the authority of the Anti-Christ under his supervision. As the Anti-Spirit he will direct the earth dwellers to worship the Antichrist, whose fatal wound was healed. To complement this goal he will do great signs, genuine miracles that will be so real they will almost deceive the elect. He will even be able to perform signs like fire coming down out of heaven as in Elijah's day. He is not as vocal as the Antichrist but is more of a deceiver. The signs will deceive the earthdwellers and he will direct the earthdwellers to make an image or statue to the Antichrist who was wounded with a sword and yet supernaturally remained alive. The image or statue was even given the breath of life so that it would even be able to speak and to kill those who do not worship the image. And the false prophet will cause all classes of men to be given an etching upon the right hand or upon the forehead. Without this etching an individual will not be able to buy or sell. The mark will be the name of the beast which is one and the same as the number of his name. Greek and Hebrew letters have numerical equivalents. As such one's name is also a number. The Antichrist's number will be 666. Only those who have wisdom during the Tribulation will be able to count the number of his name and discover what man is the beast before he reaches worldwide power.

ⁱ It is the deceiver who is always the most deceived. Deceivers convince themselves that their deceptions are true. As such, the greatest deceiver, Satan, is the most deceived person in the universe. Even though he knows the Scriptures proclaim his ultimate defeat and destiny he doesn't believe the Scriptures.

ⁱⁱ The first class is social rank, ***the small and the great***, the second is economic status, ***the rich and the poor***, the third is cultural status, ***the free and the slave***.

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.getalifeinternational.org/>

^{iv} <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RFID>

^v The most necessary goods will be food and water. The famine of the second seal (closer to the beginning of the 1st half of the Tribulation) is over but the Trumpet judgments are in full force at this time (early portion of the 2nd half of the Tribulation). The 3rd Trumpet affects the fresh water and so water will be greatly coveted during this period of time.

^{vi} Probably the numerical equivalents will be from his Hebrew name since the focus of the Tribulation is on the Jews.

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