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Revelation 13:1-18

The Beast from the Sea

13 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. ² 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. 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. 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?”

⁵ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. ⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. 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.

⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear. ¹⁰ He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

The Beast from the Earth

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. 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. 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.

OKAY, HERE'S MY TEACHING COMMENTARY

Now we come to a revelation of the Beast which is a worldwide empire controlled and empowered by Satan himself. Satan has always wanted to receive worship as God almighty and so he continues in his pursuit to be worshiped by mankind. He curses God Almighty in heaven and blasphemes his name in an attempt to turn souls away from the true and living God in order for people to believe and follow him. The Bible says that he performs great signs and wonders with the purpose of deceiving people to believe and worship an idolatrous image that is erected in his own honor. Anyone that would not bow down and worship this false God would be killed. This is very similar to what happened under the reign of the King of Babylon. He raised up in Idol and everyone was commanded to bow down and worship it.

It is very interesting to me that the Scriptures talk about the Beast creating an economic system that enslaves humanity. A unique code or number is forced upon everyone in order to buy or sell. So people are really forced into receiving this mark which the Scriptures talk about as being the number 666 somehow planted on the forehead or the hand. People are now talking about biotechnology available today which is able to insert a small biochip capsule under the skin which could contain all kinds of credit information and technical data that makes what we read about in the book of Revelation seem both imminent and highly probable.

I believe in the pre-tribulation rapture of the church. It is obvious to me in a reading of the book of revelation that the wrath of God is being outpoured during this time. The apostle Paul writes

to the Thessalonians to give them understanding about the coming of the day of the Lord that believers will not be going through the wrath of God as his children.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 For **God did not appoint us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. ¹¹ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

However, according to the Scriptures there will be plenty of people around during the great tribulation that come to faith in Jesus Christ during this time. The Scriptures teaches here that there'll be a testing of those that are saints at this time calling it the "**patience and faith of the saints.**" It is hard to imagine the kind of pressure, persecution and suffering that people will go through during this time that disagree to receive the mark of the beast.

During the rise of Adolf Hitler he convinced an entire nation to follow him and his diabolically inspired plan to conquer Europe and in the process released the greatest genocide campaign against the Jews ever recorded in history of the world. About six million Jews were put to death just because they were Jews. Even Germans like the Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer that did not agree with Hitler and his Nazi purposes were either put in prison or killed for their resistance.

WHATS THE BOTTOM LINE?

- 1) The goal of Satan is to be worshiped by humanity
- 2) The beast is a global government dictatorship that receives its power from Satan
- 3) The beast sets up an idol for the world to worship
- 4) An international economic system is put in place that requires people to receive the mark of the beast in order to buy or sell.
- 5) Those that refuse to receive the mark of the beast will be killed
- 6) The mark of the beast is 666
- 7) The technology to implement this kind of a system is already here through biometrics.

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