

THE BEAST OF REVELATION

Who Are The Beasts Of Revelation?



MORRIS CERULLO

THE BEASTS OF REVELATION

MORRIS CERULLO

This book or parts thereof may not be reproduced in any form without the written permission of Morris Cerullo World Evangelism.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

Scripture references marked TAB are from *The Amplified Bible* version Copyright © 1965 by Zondervan Publishing House.

Scripture references marked NIV are from the *New International version* of the Bible, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, by the International Bible Society.

Scripture references marked NAS are from the *New American Standard* version of the Bible. Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1977 by the Lockman Foundation.

Scripture references marked TLB are from *The Living Bible*. Copyright © 1971 by Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois 60187. All rights reserved.

Published by Morris Cerullo World Evangelism
Copyright © 2000 San Diego, California
Printed in the United States of America

Morris Cerullo World Evangelism
P. O. Box 85277 San Diego, CA 92186-5277

Morris Cerullo World Evangelism of Canada
P. O. Box 3600 Concord, Ontario L4K 1B6

Morris Cerullo World Evangelism
P. O. Box 277, Hemel Hempstead, HERTS HP2 7DH

Tel: (858) 277-2200
Website: www.mcwe.com

Cover artwork is used by permission.
It is from a series of illustrations by Pat Marvenko Smith ©1982, 1992 on the Book of Revelation, available as art prints and visual teaching aids.
A free brochure is available from

Revelation Productions
1-800-327-7330
Website: www.revelationillustrated.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Introduction</u>	5
CHAPTER 1	
<u>The Sun Clothed Woman</u>	9
CHAPTER 2	
<u>The Dragon</u>	13
CHAPTER 3	
<u>The Man-Child</u>	15
CHAPTER 4	
<u>Michael</u>	19
CHAPTER 5	
<u>The Beast Out of the Sea</u>	23
CHAPTER 6	
<u>The Beast Out of the Earth</u>	27
CHAPTER 7	
<u>The 144,000</u>	31
CHAPTER 8	
<u>The Lion of the Tribe of Judah</u>	35

INTRODUCTION

This is the seventh in a series of twelve books in which we are opening the prophecies of the end-times through an analytical study of the book of Revelation.

In chapters 1 through 11, we learned how the Apostle John received successive revelations of the final days of time. He viewed tremendous scenes of worship in heaven. As the seven seals were opened and the seven trumpets sounded, he witnessed the pouring out of God's judgment on this world.

Now, in Revelation chapters 12-14, John introduces us to seven important personages. It is at this point in John's revelation that many people get bogged down and give up trying to understand the book of Revelation.

- Who or what is represented in this passage?
- Who is the sun-clothed woman?
- Who or what are these beasts?

You will remember from the first book in this series, *The Spirit of Prophecy*, that I explained to you the reasons why symbolism is used in the Book of Revelation. The style used in Revelation is an example of what is called "apocalyptic literature" which was quite popular from 200 B.C. to 2000 A.D. It was a style that was well known and understood by both Jews and Gentiles in the first century church and a major feature of this style was the use of symbols. Our difficulty in understanding this book sometimes arises due to our unfamiliarity with apocalyptic literature as a method of communicating a message.

The book is also far removed from the historical and

cultural context of the times which would make the symbolism easier to understand. That is why to properly interpret it, we must try to understand the historical context in which it was written and interpret it in a manner that would have been meaningful to those to whom it was first addressed.

In addition, when Jesus was on earth He often taught by means of parables to conceal the meaning from the ungodly and reveal it to His followers. *"... Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given"* (Matthew 13:11-15). The mysteries of God are revealed through parables and symbols to His children, to those who hear with a spiritual ear. They are withheld from the so-called *"wise and prudent"* (Matthew 11:25).

Right up front—before we even begin Chapter One in this book—I want to give you a brief synopsis of the personages we will encounter in the passages we are going to study and explain who or what they represent:

1. The sun-clothed woman representing Israel: Revelation 12:1-5.
2. The dragon, representing Satan: Revelation 12:3-17.
3. The Man-child, representing Jesus Christ: Revelation 12:4-16.
4. Michael, representing the angels: Revelation 12:7-9.
5. The beast out of the sea who is the world dictator: Revelation 13:1-8.
6. The beast out of the earth, a religious leader who is a false prophet and supports the world dictator: Revelation 13:11-17.
7. The 144,000 representing the remnant saved out of the Tribulation: Revelation 14:1-5.

Introduction

As we begin this mighty revelation regarding these important personages, I pray that God will release the spirit of prophecy upon you —

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened;.... (Ephesians 1:17-18).

CHAPTER 1

The Sun Clothed Woman

Representing Israel Revelation 12:1-5

One of the recurring problems in the interpretation of prophecy through the centuries has been the tendency to take passages that relate to Israel and interpret them as dealing with the Church at large in this present age. If the predictions in Revelation chapters 12-14 are to be properly interpreted, it is necessary to give close attention to the details concerning each person described and properly interpret the meanings.

Revelation chapter 12 opens with a vision of a woman and a child:

*And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.
(Revelation 12:1-2)*

The woman in this vision is not the Church nor is it Jesus Christ. The woman represents the nation of Israel, the maternal genealogical line from which Jesus Christ came.

In Scripture a woman is frequently used to represent different spiritual entities. For example, the evil Queen Jezebel represents a false religion:

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth

The Beasts of Revelation

herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. (Revelation 2:20)

The harlot described in Revelation chapter 17 is the apostate church of the end-time. The Church is depicted as a bride ready to be joined to her Bridegroom (Jesus):

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. (Revelation 19:7)

In numerous passages in the Old Testament, Israel is represented as the unfaithful wife of Jehovah.

In the description given in Revelation 12, the woman (Israel) is described as being "*clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet*" (12:1). This phrase is a reference back to Joseph's dream in the Old Testament in which he saw the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowing down to him:

And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. (Genesis 37:9)

The sun and the moon in this context refer to Jacob and Rachel, Joseph's parents, who were the patriarchs of Israel. The woman in John's vision is also seen with "*a crown of twelve stars on her head.*" In Joseph's dream the stars were symbolic of his eleven brothers who, along with Joseph, later became the tribes of Israel. These symbols—the stars, sun, and moon—identify this woman as the nation of Israel.

The fact that the woman is pregnant and in pain refers to the birth pangs the nation of Israel has experienced down through the centuries while waiting for their coming Messiah. The woman's suffering refers to the nation of Israel as a whole, not just to the birth process

experienced by Mary, the earthly mother of Jesus.

Then John saw...

... another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. (Revelation 12:3-5)

Standing before the woman is a great red dragon who draws part of the stars of heaven and prepares to devour the woman's child as soon as it is born.

It is vital that we know... Who or what is represented by this dragon?

CHAPTER 2

The Dragon

Representing Satan Revelation 12:3-17

In Revelation 12:15, John saw a vision of a dragon who was standing in front of a woman awaiting the birth of her man-child. We have identified the woman as symbolic of the nation of Israel. The dragon is described as...

... a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. (Revelation 12:3-4)

This passage has dual meaning. First, it refers to the birth of Christ and the attempts of King Herod to destroy the infant Jesus. To escape Herod, it was necessary for Joseph, Mary, and Jesus to go into exile in Egypt for the early years of Jesus' life:

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. (Matthew 2:16-18)

Second, the dragon refers to Satan himself—the spirit

of the Antichrist—that operated in Herod, has continued to operate down through the centuries, and will become even more dominant in the final days of time.

The enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads refers to the reign of the evil Roman Empire—not only at the time of Christ's birth but during its revival in the end times. The Prophet Daniel saw a similar vision of...

*... a beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly;
and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces,
and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse
from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.
(Daniel 7:7)*

Revelation 13 reveals more concerning this red dragon with ten horns. The horns represent ten countries constituting the nucleus of the beast's empire. The seven heads and seven crowns refer to the principal rulers of the empire.

John also predicted that the tail of the dragon he saw will draw a third part of the stars to the earth. This refers to the end time when Satan will conquer the entire world at the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

CHAPTER 3

The Man-Child

Representing Jesus Christ Revelation 12:4-16

John then recorded that the woman he saw in his vision (Israel) gave birth to a male child:

And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. (Revelation 12:5-6)

Expositors have argued concerning the identity of the child, some claiming it represented the Church rather than Christ. The text, however, indicates that the woman's child is a male child. If the child was symbolic of the Church, it would be a female because the feminine gender (the Bride) is used in scripture to describe the Church. It would seem confusing to mix metaphors to refer to the Church as a male child—especially since the Church is consistently referred to in Scripture as a Bride.

Jesus is definitely the "man-child" who is caught up unto God and these verses summarize Satan's continued attempts to destroy Him and God's divine plan of the ages.

The male child is also described as the one "*who will rule all nations with an iron scepter*" (verse 5). This is prophesied in Revelation 19:15 concerning Jesus Christ and fulfilled in the millennial kingdom:

And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. (Revelation 19:15)

It was also predicted in Psalm 2:9 that Christ will rule "*with a rod of iron.*"

The statement that the child will be "*caught up to God and to His throne*" (Revelation 12:5) has also been debated, some believing it referred to Christ's deliverance from Egypt after Herod's death.

I believe it refers to—the ascension of Christ after His earthly ministry, however, because the expression "caught up" is too strong of a term to refer to the return of Christ and His family from Egypt to Nazareth. The same word is used to describe the rapture of the church in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, of Paul being caught up to heaven in his vision in 2 Corinthians 12:2, 4, and of Philip's experience of being caught up by the Spirit of God which is recorded in Acts 8:39.

The dragon ready to devour the child definitely refers to Satan. We know that Satan not only attempted to destroy Christ when He was born, but throughout His entire life the enemy was continually trying to defeat Him.

When Jesus died on the cross, Satan thought he had won the victory. But, praise God, we know that after Christ died, He descended into the pits of hell, snatched the keys of hell and death from Satan, released the prophets and saints held captive, rose from the grave, and ascended into Heaven where He reigns victoriously at the right hand of God.

In John's vision, after the birth of the man-child, the woman flees into the desert to a place prepared for her by God. There she is supernaturally preserved for 1,260 days

(Revelation 12:6). This reveals how Israel (the woman) will be preserved during the Great Tribulation as predicted in Old Testament:

Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. (Jeremiah 30:7)

The 1,260 days is the exact length of the Great Tribulation which will culminate in the Second Coming of Christ. (Remember—this is the Second Coming of Christ, not the rapture of the saints. The rapture already occurred before the Tribulation.)

During the Tribulation, many in Israel will perish:

And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. (Zechariah 13:8)

Despite this great loss of lives, Israel as a nation will be preserved and rescued by Christ when He comes:

As I live, saith the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord God. And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the Lord. (Ezekiel 20:33-38)

This supernatural deliverance is based upon God's promise to Israel:

The Beasts of Revelation

And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. (Romans 11:26-27)

The next part of the John's vision in Revelation chapter 12 concerns Michael, a host of angels, and a great spiritual war in the heavens...

CHAPTER 4

Michael

Representing The Angels Revelation 12:7-9

The beginning of the Great Tribulation—which is Israel's terrible time of trouble—is also marked by a war in heaven. John saw this in the vision which is recorded in Revelation chapter 12:

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Revelation 12:7-9)

Earlier, the Roman Empire was pictured as the dragon (Revelation 12:4), but here the dual interpretation of the dragon is clearly noted. The dragon is depicted as Satan, who will influence world governments prior to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, just as he did at the time of Christ's birth.

Until the events described in this chapter take place, Satan is given access to Heaven, where he continually accuses the saints before God, just as he did in the case of Job.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to

The Beasts of Revelation

and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?... forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. (Job 1:6-11)

The description of Satan as the devil has in it the thought of slandering or defaming (diabolos) and is used several times in Scripture—perhaps in most detail in Zechariah:

And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? (Zechariah 3:1-2)

Just Jesus defends believers before the throne of God, Satan accuses them.

As John watched the fierce struggle in the heavens, Michael overpowered the great dragon (Satan) and cast him down into the earth with his angels. The battle John saw is a spiritual battle that will take place in Heaven in the end-times. This is not the war that occurred when Satan fell from his exalted position in heaven as Lucifer.

The casting down of Satan to the earth also marks the beginning of the most awful period in human history, the Great Tribulation. John recorded hearing a voice from heaven commemorating this event:

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word

of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them... (Revelation 12:10-12)

This passage shows how Satan's role in Heaven will climax and how his activities on earth will intensify. There was great rejoicing in Heaven because Satan, the accuser, was thrown out once and for all! But there was an ominous warning to those on earth:

Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. (Revelation 12:12)

On earth there will be many martyrs throughout the Great Tribulation. John records that...

... when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. (Revelation 12:13-14)

The time period here is the same as the 1,260 days mentioned earlier as the term "time" refers to one year, "times" refers to two years, plus a half time—or a total of three-and-a-half years.

During the Great Tribulation, many in Israel will perish as predicted by Jesus:

When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be

The Beasts of Revelation

great Tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. (Matthew 24:15-22)

Despite the intense suffering, there will be a supernatural preservation of a remnant of Israel. Some believe that there will be a specific place in the desert where Israel can flee. Others think it is not a place but simply representative of the safety of those who survive.

John further recorded...

And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Revelation 12:15-17)

Although the power of Satan is tremendous, so is the strength given believers. Those who overcame Satan did so by the blood of the Lamb, by their faithful testimony, and their willingness to be martyrs if necessary (Revelation 12:11).

The flood which issues from Satan is probably symbolic of all he will do to destroy Israel—including false teaching which in the end time will come in like a flood and negative circumstances of the Tribulation which will test their faith in the fulfillment of their promised Messiah.

The Tribulation will be a terrible time on earth! John watches in awed silence as he sees in his vision two fierce beasts arise—one from the sea and one from the earth...

CHAPTER 5

The Beast Out of the Sea

Representing the World Dictator Revelation 13:1-8

Revelation chapter 13 focuses on the end-time world government and the beast and the false prophet who lead it. It pulls together many prophecies throughout Scripture that speak of this crucial time of three-and-a-half years which culminates in the Second Coming of Christ.

Having introduced the main characters of the end time-the woman (Israel), the dragon (Satan), and the man-child (Christ), the Revelation of John goes on to describe two more important personages who will dominate the Great Tribulation. In this chapter we will discuss the beast out of the sea. In Chapter Six we will learn about the beast out of the earth.

Chapter 13 opens with John seeing a monstrous looking creature rise up from the depths of the sea:

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. (Revelation 13:1-2)

This is the same beast described in Revelation 17 as "A scarlet-coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns" (Revelation 17:3). This beast represents the revived Roman Empire and its ruler in the end time.

Revelation here corresponds to the description given in Daniel 7:7-8 and Revelation 12:3; 17:7. This beast—the future world ruler—will arise out of the sea which represents the mass of humanity.

The empire is seen here after three of the ten nations that form its beginning are overthrown and come under the power of the beast. The ten horns represent ten governments, as the horn is used in Scripture as a symbol of political power (this is illustrated in Daniel chapters 7-8.) The crowns are diadems and emblems of governmental authority. Their blasphemous names indicate that they are opposed to God. The seven heads refer to the principal authorities that head these future governments.

John recorded that the beast he saw resembled a leopard but had feet like a bear and a mouth like a lion (Revelation 13:2). In Daniel's description of the four great world empires preceding the kingdom from heaven, the four great empires are also described as beasts (Daniel 7). The Babylonian power is represented as a lion (Daniel 7:4), the Medo-Persian Empire as a bear (Daniel 7:5), the leopard was Alexander the Great in his conquest (Daniel 7:6), and the beast of Revelation 13:1-7—who is not named—represents the future Roman Empire (Daniel 7:7-11).

The three beasts of Daniel represented, and the beast of the sea reveals that the final world ruler gathers into his power all the preceding political leaders and kingdoms and—eventually becomes ruler over the entire globe.

John also pointed out that the dragon gave the beast his power, throne, and authority (Revelation 13:2). Satan will be behind the political powers and rulers in the end-times. The human world ruler—the beast from the sea—is representative of Satan, much as Christ is the representative of God the Father.

John also describes a fatal wound received by the beast which is healed:

And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed.... (Revelation 13:3)

Because of this supernatural event, the whole world was astonished and followed the beast:

... and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him? (Revelation 13:3-4)

The Roman Empire seemingly has been dead for centuries. The fact that it is resurrected at this time would seem to indicate that while the empire had a fatal wound that should have caused its demise, we will see a future revival of the Roman Empire.

In any event and regardless of what the interpretation of this fatal wound is, the supernatural origin and special powers of this world ruler cause the world to be attracted to him and worship him. The final form of apostasy is to worship a man instead of worshiping God and to worship Satan who sought to be like God.

John records that...

And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. (Revelation 13:5-7)

The Scriptures leave no doubt that this is an actual political government that extends over the entire globe.

The Beasts of Revelation

During most of the final three-and-a-half years, the world ruler has power to cause the saints to be martyred, as previously revealed in Revelation 7:9-17. His authority extends to the entire globe and to every person in the world. He is actually worshiped as God:

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Revelation 13:8)

While the prophecy states that everyone on earth will worship the beast, there is the glorious exception of those whose names are written in the Book of Life.

CHAPTER 6

The Beast Out of the Earth

Representing the False Religious Leader Revelation 13:11-17

In Revelation 13:11-18, a second beast is introduced. The Apostle John wrote:

*And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth;
and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.
And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him,
and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to
worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.
(Revelation 13:11-12)*

Working alongside Satan and the first beast—the Antichrist who is known as the world ruler—is a third person in the diabolical, unholy trinity known as the false prophet. This false prophet will be the leader of a false religious system and will prepare the way for the Antichrist.

John saw this end time false prophet in the form of a second beast. After the awesome looking beast with seven heads and ten horns—the Antichrist—passed from view, John saw another beast that looked like a lamb, it had two horns, and a voice like a dragon. This beast rose up out of the earth and it represents the end-time false prophet.

This description reveals this prophet's power to deceive. Jesus warned His disciples of false prophets who would come in sheep's clothing but were, inwardly, ravenous wolves:

The Beasts of Revelation

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. (Matthew 7:15)

This end time false prophet and the counterfeit religion he represents will appear harmless as a lamb, but will be based upon lies from the pits of hell. His message will bring destruction on those who accept it.

Just as the Holy Spirit does not speak of Himself but testifies of Christ, the false prophet will not speak of himself but will speak of the Antichrist. He will cause those whose names are not written in the book of life to worship the Antichrist. Empowered by Satan, he will be able to perform counterfeit signs and wonders. Like Elijah, he will be able to call down fire from heaven:

And he doth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, (Revelation 13:13)

Through counterfeit signs and wonders, the false prophet will persuade unbelievers on earth to make an image of the beast—the Antichrist. This image will be placed in the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem where the Antichrist will set up his headquarters:

And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. (Revelation 13:14-15)

This event is called is the "abomination of desolation" which was prophesied by Daniel:

And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute

The Beast Out of the Earth

the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. (Daniel 11:31)

Using his satanic powers, the false prophet will cause the image to come to life and it will be able to speak. All those living upon the earth will be required to "worship" this image or face death.

This worship will involve total allegiance to Satan and his counterfeit religious system. People will be required to take an identifying mark:

And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six. (Revelation 13:16-18)

You may wonder why anyone would do such a thing, but you must remember that during these times God will send strong delusion upon all those who have rejected the truth. They will be deceived by the counterfeit miracles the false prophet performs and they will willingly give their wholehearted allegiance to him. The mark of the beast is six hundred threescore and six—666—which is the mark of the Antichrist.

The redeemed will have Christ's Name, the Name of God, and the name of New Jerusalem written on their foreheads (Revelation 3:12; 14:1; 22:4). His Name will identify them as God's possession and will be a seal of protection for them. The mark of the Antichrist—666, which is the numeric equivalent of his name—will mark those who belong to Satan and seal their fate of final destruction in the lake of fire!

Those who take the mark of the beast will be able to buy, sell, and will escape the wrath of the Antichrist, but they will not escape the wrath of God. They will be tormented forever in the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20).

Those who refuse to take the mark of the beast will not be able to buy or sell and will face death, but in the end they will rejoice around the throne of God forever (Revelation 7:14-17).

Beloved, the time has come for us, as part of the Church of the living God, to go forward from a new position of strength KNOWING that we are part of an impenetrable force that CANNOT AND WILL NOT BE DEFEATED! One of the most important strategies an army can have in winning a war is to know its own strength and to know the strength of the enemy. Satan's counterfeit system has been exposed to you. You can see how, even now, Satan is at work preparing the world for the Antichrist and his godless system. I must warn you—this end time conflict cannot be far away. What are you doing with the revelation God is giving you? What are you doing to prepare for Christ's coming and to warn your unsaved friends and loved ones?

Beloved, it is later than you think! Don't allow yourself to become "sidetracked" by other things that will take your focus off the fact that Christ's coming is near at hand.

CHAPTER 7

The 144,000

Representing the Remnant Saved out of the Tribulation Revelation 14:1-5

As we are learning, the parenthetical chapters of Revelation 12 through 14 focus on symbols representing characters who will be important personages during the end times.

In Revelation chapter 12 we learned how Israel, Christ, Satan, and Michael are vitally linked to the final great drama of the ages.

In Revelation chapter 13, we learned about the future world ruler—the beast out of the sea—and the false prophet—the beast out of the earth—along with details of their world government.

As Chapter 14 opens, we find an interesting scene described by the Apostle John:

And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits

unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. (Revelation 14:1-5)

Here we find that the 144,000—who were introduced in chapter 7 and were sealed to be kept safely through the Tribulation on earth without losing their lives—have been supernaturally preserved.

In this vision,—John is seeing the triumph of the Lamb following His second coming and the 144,000 on Mount Zion as tokens of His keeping power and their induction to the millennial reign.

The Apostle John records that these 144,000 have the names of Christ and of God the Father written on their foreheads. This not only indicates their possession by God, it marks them for safety to be preserved through the Great Tribulation. One of the divine purposes of these people is illustrating the keeping power of God during the most terrible time ever experienced on earth.

As John is looking at this group of people, all of a sudden he hears a sound from heaven which he compares to the roar of rushing waters or a peal of thunder. It is, of course, a demonstration of God's divine power. The sound—though powerful—also has a musical quality as if it is being played on the harp.

Suddenly, the masses standing before the throne begin to sing a new song of praise to God. No one but the 144,000 could sing this special song. The 144,000 singing this beautiful melody are described as...

... Those who did not defile themselves with women.

... Pure like virgins.

... Redeemed.

... Following the Lamb wherever He goes.

... Those who are offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb.

The implication from this description is that the 144,000 are kept from doctrinal and moral impurity and are characterized as those who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. Under ordinary circumstances, the married state is not regarded as less pure than the single state, but in the terrible period of the Great Tribulation, a normal married life would be impossible. So, in order to serve the Lord without distraction, they remain unmarried.

This description of the 144,000 emphasizes the importance of living a life of purity and being a witness to the world. Believers are to be holy and blameless:

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love. (Ephesians 1:4)

We are to be without fault:

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy... (Jude 24)

The 144,000 illustrate—an amazing testimony of the holiness of God in the midst of a generation that is utterly wicked. If they can do it during the most terrible time ever experienced on earth, what valid excuse could we possibly have for not abiding by the standards of God's Word?

CHAPTER 8

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah

Representing The Lord Jesus Christ

In discussing the beasts of Revelation—the symbols of personages who will play vital roles in God's end-time plan—there is one final "beast" that must be mentioned as we conclude our study. This "beast" is more powerful than the beast of the land and the beast of the sea. It is more powerful than Satan himself.

Actually, we first encountered this "beast" at the time of the opening of the book with seven seals:

And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. (Revelation 5:5)

The "beast" I am referring to is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Jesus is not only pictured as a Lion, but Scripture records that His words are as a lion's roar:

They shall walk after the Lord: he shall roar like a lion: when he shall roar, then the children shall tremble from the west. (Hosea 11:10)

Satan—the great counterfeiter—tries to disguise himself as a lion because that is the symbol of our Savior. That is why we are warned to be sober, vigilant, and aware of the enemy's antics:

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

The Beasts of Revelation

(1 Peter 5:8)

Satan is AS a roaring lion—he is not the lion! We have authority over this imitator:

Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. (Psalm 91:13)

As we face the perilous end times, the righteous can be bold as a lion because we have the "Lion of Judah" resident within us:

The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion. (Proverbs 28:1)

We know that Jesus is coming soon. We know that the end times are upon us. We know that Satan is intensifying his efforts as never before.

Don't allow yourself to become so busy and involved with the cares of this life that the day of the Lord catches you unprepared. Heed Jesus' warning:

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. (Luke 21:34-36)

Do not fear the things coming upon this earth! Look up and rejoice, knowing that your redemption is drawing nigh:

And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. (Luke 21:28)

The power within you is greater than all the power of the enemy:

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

The "beast" within you is greater than all of Satan's forces. The "lion" of the tribe of Judah has prevailed (Revelation 5:5).

Be sure to obtain your copy of the next book in this powerful New Millennium 2000 Prophetic Series, *The Seven Vials of Wrath*. In volume eight...

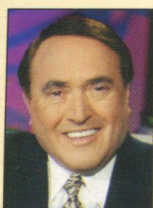
- You will learn the meaning of the warnings given by the three angels described in Revelation 14.
- You will learn details of the final spiritual harvest on earth.
- You will witness a great victory celebration in Heaven.
- You will study the seven last plagues that are poured out by the angels with their vials of wrath.
- You will be able to hear what the voice of the Spirit is saying to the Church—to YOU—in these final days of time.

Morris Cerullo World Evangelism
P.O. Box 85277 San Diego, CA 92186-5277

Morris Cerullo World Evangelism of Canada
P.O. Box 3600 Concord, Ontario L4K1B6

Morris Cerullo World Evangelism
P.O. Box 277, Hemel Hempstead, HERTS HP2 7DH

Tel: (858) 277-2200
Website: www.mcwe.com



Dr. Morris Cerullo, President Morris Cerullo World Evangelism Over 55 years of Proven Ministry To The Nations Of The World ...

Morris Cerullo's accreditation for spiritual teaching is, in itself, quite formidable: a divine, supernatural call from God to preach and evangelize when he was 15 years old ... graduated from New England Bible College ... over half a century of experience as a pastor, teacher, author and worldwide evangelist. Many honors have been bestowed on Morris Cerullo, including honorary doctorates of Divinity and Humanities, both by academic and spiritual leaders around the world in recognition of his achievements and contributions to global evangelization. Dr. Cerullo is respected and looked upon by thousands of Nationals as God's end-time apostolic prophet to the nations of the world. Dr. Cerullo's Ministry Outreaches include:

Decade Of Harvest—Reaching the unreached and untargeted people of the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through major Schools of Ministry, Miracle Crusades, Worldwide Prime Time Television Specials and local Schools of Ministry designed to cover every village, town and city throughout the earth. Winning the last is the number one goal of this ministry.

Schools of Ministry—training National pastors, ministers and laypeople to reach their nations for Christ through mass evangelistic crusades.

Global Satellite Network Schools of Ministry—monthly, ongoing training for National ministers worldwide.

Blessed Magazine—Blessed is the beautiful, monthly, ministry publication designed to bless, inspire and challenge the faith of the reader. Just as the Apostle John saw a door open in heaven and heard a voice saying, "... Come up here ..." (Revelation 4:1 NIV), Blessed is calling men and women to a higher place in God. When you read it, you will be "Blessed!"

Victory Television—cutting edge daily television programming designed to strengthen the Body of Christ to reach the entire world.

The New Inspirational Television Network—the 24-hour Christian satellite television network that provides Christian programming to the entire North American continent, with an ever-expanding outreach toward linking the world via satellite television.

Dr. Cerullo has also authored more than 50 books. Few ministers have had such an impact on the destiny of the nations of the world. Morris Cerullo's life has been sacrificially dedicated to training and spiritually equipping pastors, laypeople and evangelists to reach their nations for Christ with a supernatural endowment of God's Power.

Morris Cerullo World Evangelism

U.S. • P.O. Box 85277 • San Diego, CA 92186

Canada • P.O. Box 3600 • Concord, Ontario L4K 1B6

U.K. • P.O. Box 277 • Hemel Hempstead • HERTS • HP2 7DH

Website: www.mcwe.com

ISBN 1-931887-05-5



9 781931 887052