

The Anti-Christ of Revelation (His Mark)-I

S372R 0710 24W

A worsening spiritual condition in the world with each passing day, increased persecution of Christian based Churches in many countries, and other events taking place in the world, seem to point toward end times happenings to soon come upon the world and its inhabitants. It is necessary for a true child of God to have a good understanding of the Scriptures concerning events connected with the rise and reign of the anti-Christ, (referred to as the beast in the book of Revelation), and, then the significance of a mark connected to his name and number.

In the 13th. chapter of Revelation a description is given of a beast that is to appear in the closing days of the Gospel Age (and it is referred to in other parts of the Bible). Scriptures explain that it will appear during a Great Tribulation which is yet to come on the world. While no one knows the exact time of the close of this Gospel Age (nor time of the appearing of this beast described in the Bible) conditions of the world today indicate that it is certainly nearer than ever before. Therefore, it is possible that many who are living at the present time, may live to see the rise of this beast yet to come. (otherwise known as the Anti-Christ).

His rise to power and activities connected to his reign, will mark the close of the times of the Gentiles. It would benefit a Christian (or anyone else) to have at least some understanding of these events that are yet to take place, as predicted, for the wrath of the Anti-Christ (that beast of Revelation) will be vented on true believers in Christ (those who will not compromise their religion to obey this beast).

It was God's will from the beginning, that Israel should always be the chief nation of the earth, but they rebelled by trusting in everything and everybody besides God (so persistently so), that God was compelled to permit the ten tribes of Israel to be taken into captivity by the

Assyrians. That captivity occurred about seven hundred and twenty years before the first coming of Christ.

The kingdom of Judah lasted a while longer, but eventually became so hopelessly idolatrous that God permitted them to also be taken into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar, five hundred and eighty-five years before the first coming of Christ.

Then the times of the Gentiles began and were to continue until the Great Tribulation will take place. During that time, one hundred and forty-four thousand Jews are to be preserved (as described in Revelation 7:), and they will form the nucleus of the restored Israelites, who will again be the chief nation of the earth (during the millennial reign of Christ). (vs.2-3) "And I saw another angel coming from the east and carrying a seal belonging to the ever-living God. Injure neither land nor sea nor trees" he said, "until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God upon their foreheads."

This beast (spoken of in Rev.13:), gives us an idea of the terrible wickedness and depravity of the Gentile world in the closing days of the Gospel Age (or the end of the times of the Gentiles). In the second chapter of Daniel there is a revelation given of which a part of it contains those times. After an angry emperor (Nebuchadnezzar) ordered all the prophets in Babylon to be slain because they could not interpret his dream. Daniel and the Hebrew children asked for time to have God reveal the dream and its interpretation to them. They then went to God in prayer and asked Him to have mercy and make known to them the dream and its interpretation, that their lives might be saved.

Before daybreak the next morning, God revealed the whole thing to them in a night vision (which Daniel then explained for King Nebuchadnezzar to understand). He explained that the king had seen a great image in his dream, which had a head of gold, a breast of silver, a belly of brass, legs of iron, and feet of iron mixed with miry clay. This image (representing the kingdoms on the earth before his time), was seen standing at the foot of a great mountain.

"While the king was looking at the image, a stone started of itself (without human hands) to roll down the mountain and smote the image on its feet and ten toes, ground it to powder, and

scattered it as the wind does the chaff from a threshing floor. The stone then became a great mountain which filled the earth.”

Daniel then began to explain the meaning of this great stone that filled the earth, saying, that it represented the king himself, (Daniel 2:37-45) “You, O king (Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonian empire), *are* a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given *them* into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you *are* this head of gold. But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours;” (this, the late Pastor explained), was the breast of silver which represented the Media and Persia kingdom, which ruled the entire civilized world for a time (after the kingdom in Babylon); (Daniel continued) “then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.” (this being the kingdom of Greece when Alexander the Great conquered the world).

“And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, *that kingdom* will break in pieces and crush all the others. Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

And in the days of these kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this.”

This fourth kingdom described in great

detail by the prophet Daniel, represents the Roman Empire which was ruling the world at the time of the first coming of Christ (the late Pastor explained). Then the Gospel Age came in between like a parenthesis [an age which we are still in while the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being given to the world]. The fourth kingdom was held in abeyance (put on hold so to speak) during this Gospel Age that we are now in. But it is to reappear during the Great Tribulation in the form of a ten-kingdom confederacy, represented by the ten toes. (The prophet Daniel concluded his explanation to the king) saying, The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

This ten kingdom confederacy (represented by the ten toes that the king saw in his dream) is to be destroyed at the second coming of Christ, by God’s power (as described Rev.19), and, as Daniel described as a great stone rolling down the mountain (no human hands to start it rolling), and smiting the image on the toes and grinding it to powder, and never to be replaced (for the kingdom of Jesus Christ will live on for Eternity).

In Daniel chapter 7, God gave Daniel a revelation in a night vision of those same times of the Gentiles, but it was then depicted under entirely different figures. Nebuchadnezzar had seen it as a great image; while it had been shown to Daniel as four wild beasts under the control of Satan, himself. They also represented these four world kingdoms.

Daniel said, the first beast was like “a lion and it had eagle’s wings.” (This one represented the kingdom of Babylon.)

The second beast looked like a bear, and it was told to arise and devour much flesh. (It represented the kingdom of Media and Persia) (which had ruled the entire civilized world for a period of time).

The third looked like “a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird” (enabling the kingdom to move very fast to conquer other countries). “The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.” (This one represented the kingdom of Greece under Alexander the Great.)

“The fourth beast was dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; it had great iron teeth; it devoured and brake in pieces, and,

trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.” (This fourth beast (dreadful and terrible) was in reference to the Roman empire as it will reappear in the beast spoken of in Revelation). [It is still being kept on hold until the time of the Great Tribulation, then to reappear in the form of a ten-kingdom confederacy, which is what the ten toes represented in Daniel’s night vision.]

In the 12th chapter of Revelation, the curtain is drawn aside, and the terrible wickedness and the power that is back of this beast of the 13th chapter, is revealed to us (that we might know for sure that it is Satan himself).

There appeared in Heaven a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his head. (Rev.12:3). [the Bible refers to the devil as the dragon (‘ancient serpent’). This makes it very plain that the Gentile Age will be under the complete and supreme control of Satan himself (in a far worse form than before, it that were possible).

The seven heads and ten horns of the dragon, also the seven crowns, is given for us, that we might identify the power that inspires and controls this beast of Revelation, and it will enable us to account for all the terrible things that will happen during the reign of these beasts, yet to come.

In the 13th chapter of Revelation (first verse), John tells us that he stood upon the sands of the sea, and he saw a beast rise up out of the sea (having ten heads and seven horns), and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads, blasphemous names were written. In verse two, the beast is clearly identified with Daniel’s visions of the Gentile reign. It had the characteristics of a leopard, a lion, and a bear.

In chapter 17, we are given an interpretation of this beast (and some other very significant things connected with his rise to power). John was shown a woman sitting on this beast, probably depicting the Roman Catholic Church (which is to be explained from passages used later in the message), as she is described as the mother of harlots (or mother of all the false religions of the earth) [spiritually unfaithful, as they teach and approve of idols and false places of trust for their members]. She is also

described as the mother and of all the abominations or evil things that are found on the earth.

John said (Vs.3-6) (in the Spirit) “I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast *which was* full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name *was* written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.”

(Rev. 17:7-8) “But the angel said to me, ‘Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”



www.fcgchurch.org

PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

fcgchurch1@gmail.com

S372R 0710 24W

The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia

(SOME MAIN POINTS): The message on this subject emphasizes that a beast is to appear in the closing days of the Gospel Age (that is described in the Bible), and who is otherwise known as the Anti-Christ. It's rise to power and the activities connected to his reign, will mark the close of the times of the Gentiles. A vision of this beast to come was given to a wicked emperor (Nebuchadnezzar), and which was interpreted to him by Daniel the prophet of God. The interpretation was repeated later in another vision to the prophet Daniel, but depicted in very different symbols/figures, but it gave us an idea of a terrible wickedness and depravity of the Gentile world in the closing days of the Gospel Age (or the end of the times of the Gentiles). That Anti-Christ's kingdom will have absolute control of the sinful world at that time but is to be destroyed by God's power at the second coming of Christ (as described Rev. 19).

In (Rev.12:3) this beast appeared as a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his head.. [the Bible refers to the devil as the dragon (or ancient serpent). This makes it very plain that the Gentile Age will be under the complete control of Satan himself (in a far worse form than before if that were possible). In chapter 17, apostle John was given an interpretation of this beast. John was also shown a woman sitting on this beast, [probably depicting the Roman Catholic Church (described as 'THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH'. (meaning all the false religions of the earth) [spiritually unfaithful, as they teach and approve of idols and false places of trust.]
&&&&&&&