

Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 2:21 PM  
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study on Revelation 13:11-18

"For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and the antichrist!" (2 John 7)

What will the coming Tribulation be like? John, the beloved disciple of Jesus Christ, saw it all, in a vision, while on the Isle of Patmos and was instructed by God to record (for all posterity) all that he had seen in order that we might "read and hear and heed, for the time is near"!

Remember, in Revelation 12, how John (among other things) saw a "great red dragon," who turned out to be Satan or Lucifer, the anointed cherub, who long ago rebelled against God and was driven from heaven, along with a third of the angels! Later, the Scriptures say, showing up in the Garden of Eden to tempt Adam and Eve to disobey God; and throughout Old Testament times to try to lead God's chosen people astray, and actually "wipe them out," and cut off the Messianic line; then, most notably trying to "devour" the Christ child and, failing that, to sabotage Christ's earthly ministry and God's redemptive plan (all of which failed, of course)! And, ever since, "prowling around" in the world (today) "seeking whom he might devour" (maybe us)! In Revelation 12, John sees him also standing before God in heaven as an "accuser of the brethren" (apparently also happening today) but then, at some point (apparently at the same time as the tribulation period will be occurring on the earth) being engaged in a war with Michael the archangel (and their angels) in what MacArthur calls "the war of the ages" (or the real "Star Wars") before losing and getting thrown out of heaven for good! Down to the earth!

In Revelation 13:1, John next sees "the dragon" (Satan, having been thrown from heaven) now standing (during the tribulation!) on the sand of the seashore; our world! As if it's his rightful possession (MacArthur notes)! And then, in perfect timing, "a beast coming out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns seven diadems, and on his head blasphemous names...looking like a leopard with feet like a bear and mouth like a lion" (all in one)! All metaphors for what we learned will depict the coming Antichrist! Described long ago by Daniel to a tee! The Antichrist! Summoned and empowered by Satan and becoming the world's greatest leader ever, followed and even worshipped by "all the people who dwell on the earth" (term for "unbelievers) and particularly after he supposedly recovers from a "fatal wound"! And people in the world during terrifying times, totally vulnerable and looking for something and someone to follow! And John records, in Revelation 13:5, how "there was given to him a mouth to speak arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months" (which just happens to be three and a half years), and that "it was also given to make war against the saints, and to overcome them"! But only for a season! And he won't be able to do it alone!

And that brings us to our lesson last night on Revelation 13:11-18!

In Revelation 13:11, John sees "another beast" (another of the same kind), this one "coming out of the earth...having two horns like a lamb and (but!) speaking like a dragon (like the proverbial "wolf in sheep's clothing)...and exercising all the authority of the first beast (the Antichrist)... and making all those who dwell on the earth (the unbelievers) worship the first beast (again, the

Antichrist) whose fatal wound was healed"! Wow! This is the "false prophet"! Empowered and indwelt, like the Antichrist, by Satan and a demon from the abyss!

His mission will be to cause "all those who dwell on the earth" to follow and worship the Antichrist, using his alleged healing from the mortal wound to amaze them and solidify their support and worship! Constable calls him Antichrist's "Minister of Propaganda"! And he will even "call for peace in the world" and build bridges between politics and religion! Like many world leaders have tried, unsuccessfully, throughout the ages! (MacArthur calls it "political expedience" and "religious passion") He will, in effect, head the apostate church; a one-world church, believe it or not, at least for a while! (True believers, by the way, won't fall for it! Jesus said, in John 10:4, 27, that "He is the Good Shepherd ...and that they won't follow a stranger...that they hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand!! And that's good to know, during the Tribulation! They may die as martyrs, but they will not follow the crowd!)

Verse 13-14 say, he (the false prophet) will also "perform great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men," and will "deceive those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given to him to perform!" Given to him obviously, for a time, by the sovereign God! And with that, he will try to mimic the signs produced by Christ and the "two witnesses" (in Revelation 11:11-13) with their resurrection from the dead and somehow succeed in winning over the people, who at that point during the tribulation period will be desperate for almost anything! (Remember how, in 1 Kings 18, Elijah called down fire from God out of heaven on the sacrifices on Mount Carmel and how the false prophets of Baal tried to duplicate the feat but failed!)

But the image of the "meek" and lamb-like false prophet will change over time and his tolerance will suddenly fade! Verse 14 says that he will require the people of the earth to "make an image to the beast" (the Antichrist) and "worship the image of the beast or be killed"! (Remember how, back in Daniel 3, Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image and required everyone to fall down and worship it, but that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused and were thrown into the fiery furnace, with you knowing the rest of the story!)

Daniel 11:31 also speaks of "a despicable person who will arise and desecrate the sanctuary fortress and do away with regular sacrifice and set up the abomination of desolation!" And Jesus said, in Matthew 24:14-15, that "when you see abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in holy place (let the reader understand), then let those in Judea must flee to the mountains!"

Revelation 13:16 says that the false prophet will then "cause all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men, and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead and provide that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark...!"

And things will only get worse as we'll find in the revelations to follow!

And so, in Revelation 12 and 13 we've heard and read from John about the "satanic trinity," which we'll see come to pass in the tribulation period, composed of Satan, the dragon (the counterfeit of God the Father); the Antichrist, the first beast (the counterfeit of the Son); and now the False Prophet (the counterfeit of the Holy Spirit)! Constable writes that these two chapters "paint a picture of the Great Tribulation in which there will be one government, one religion, and one economic system for the whole world. A time of great persecution and martyrdom for believers! And rather than getting better and better, as some believe, the world will be getting worse and worse before the Second Coming of Christ!"

Paul said it pretty clearly, in 2 Thessalonians 2:4-5, "Let no one in any way deceive you, for it (the day of the Lord) will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition (speaking of the Antichrist), who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple, displaying himself as God!"

As we see the world shaping up for this scenario, it should motivate us to redeem the time, before the Rapture, and our lives on earth come to an end, and opportunities to share the "good news" of the Gospel pass us by! Or as said another way, to read and hear and heed! For the time has got to be near!

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