

Life after Death Part 14

Revelation Chapter 13

Christ Second Coming - the Tribulation

We will continue in this message our discussion about life after death and the events at the second coming of Christ and the period of tribulation from the book of Revelation.

Here in ***Revelation 13***, we are in the second half of the period of tribulation and we will see the war will continue against the Kingdom of God, in which Satan will use beasts on the earth to fight against God using deception to deceive people. Here also will come to know about the number 666, and the mark of the beast; so, let us read and meditate:

“1 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. (This is the first beast to distinguish it from the second beast that we found in verse 11 as we read here, ***“11 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.”*** This first beast will be used by Satan during the tribulation. It may rise out and can represent mass of humanity. The beast will rise out of the sea as we read here, ***“and saw a beast rise up out of the sea”***. Sea is often used as a metaphor to describe masses of people or human power; the same as we noticed in the sea that was before the throne in ***Revelation 4:6 “And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.”*** Before the throne was a sea of glass that most likely represents masses of people. The same here in ***Revelation 13*** the sea represents masses of people; for example nations rising to power with a leader and power, like the beast here to bring blasphemy, havoc, and deceiving people in bringing them away from God. ***“having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.”*** Based on that, this first beast had the following distinct characteristics: 1. Knowledge represented by ***“seven heads”***. 2. Power represented by ***“ten horns”***. 3. Authority represented by ***“ten crowns”***. The main characteristic of the beast was, ***“upon his heads the name of blasphemy”***, in blaspheming God, Christ and the Holy Spirit.) ***2 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.*** (Other characteristics of the beast were for deception represented by, ***“like unto a leopard”***, and being lethal having, ***“feet were as the feet of a bear”***, and frightening having, ***“mouth as the mouth of a lion”***. This first beast was given power, opportunity and authority from Satan, the dragon, as we read here, ***“and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”***) ***3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.*** (One of the heads wounded possibly from the previous events in ***Revelation 12***. Or wounded and later on healed just to create a drama to deceive the people and to make the people believe that Satan has power to heal. Then with such, the people and the world in the tribulation will respond to the first beast with admiration and wonder because it is healed from a mortal wound. The devil usually creates stories and events to attract attention, sympathy and admiration so finally to deceive the people to employ his agenda. They were amazed and astonished by the false healing that Satan had

given to the one of the heads of the first beast. False miracles can be done and triggered by Satan in order to let people to leave Christ and follow him. **Therefore we need to be aware of such false miracles that devil and the power of darkness may perform to deceive us.)** ***4 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?*** (The perished people who were deceived they offered worship to Satan, the dragon and to the beast, because the world knows the beast’s power comes from Satan, thinking that no one can win at a war against him and his first beast. With such the devil was trying to cover his defeat in ***Revelation 12***. See how the deception is great and would swallow the people and their faith in God. **Therefore, we need to be careful and cautious that even if we see miracles and wonders that are not done in the name of Jesus and or not done according to His Word we should not be deceived by them.)** ***5 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.*** (Satan, the accuser of the brethren, had equipped the beast with a mouth to speak great things and blasphemies; to boast and to speak arrogant proud things against God and against His Christ; ***“and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.”*** This first beast was given power from Satan to continue for three and half years, perhaps we can conclude that this is the second half of the Tribulation.) ***6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.*** (Here the first beast opened his mouth in blasphemes against God, against His name, against Heaven, against His place of worship, ***“his tabernacle”***, which perhaps was in Heaven, and or on earth with the converted believers during the tribulation period who will worship God on earth until they will go into rapture and taken by the Lord. The beast uttered blasphemies against them, ***“that dwell in heaven”***; those are the saints who already were taken by the Lord in the rapture, and were in Heaven.) ***7 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.*** (The first beast was given power to wage warfare against the saints in order to overcome them and to make them turn away from Christ. This first beast would wage war against all nations to force them to follow him. This will take place during the second three and half years of the tribulation.) ***8 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.*** (Only the unsaved people during the period of tribulation will worship him, rather than Christ the Lamb, because of the deception and because of their non willingness to follow Christ and suffer for His cause. **Therefore be careful and aware that the devil may try to deceive you and makes you afraid of suffering in order to follow him and worship him. Therefore resist him, stand firm in faith, and be willing to suffer for Christ and in such is your salvation.)** ***9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.*** (Here is another warning issued to the believers during this stage of tribulation. *** The warning here because those who would be converted in the period of tribulation their faith will be tested with furious persecution that they would most likely end up in death in which they needed to endure in order for them to be resurrected to be taken by the Lord. * Therefore with such events that we discussed that will be taken place, it would be always better for you to repent now than waiting for the period of tribulation.)** ***10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.*** (Warnings here were issued about judgment upon those that force their own way to escape suffering from captivity and from the sword; that there is no way but they have to go through it during the period of tribulation to be saved. Therefore the character of patience with endurance and faith needed to be maintained by believers. And also as we mentioned

before, during the period of tribulation those who believe, they would be under the fierce power of persecution that cannot be reversed or abolished, and there is no escape from what God had ordained of captivity or sword, which is in pertain to the second three and half years of the period of tribulation.) **11 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.** (A second beast here appears from out of the earth. He appears to be like Christ, coming up out of the earth, as if he was resurrected as the resurrection of Christ, being in a figure of a lamb or in similarity to a lamb having two horns as we read here, *“he had two horns like a lamb”*. But his speech would expose him as we read her, *“and he spake as a dragon”*, that he spoke lies, arrogance, deceptions and evil, as usual for the language of Satan, the dragon to speak. **Therefore, even now we need to be careful and discerning to differentiate the voice of Satan from the voice of the Holy Spirit.**) **12 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.** (He had power like the first beast, and he can deceive and influence the people, *“and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”* He caused the unsaved of the earth to worship the first beast whose wound was healed by a false miracle. **Therefore, we need to be discerning about the false healings and the false miracles because even Satan may perform healings and signs and wonders in order to deceive the elects, and for such a reason we need to be watchful.**) **13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,** (he did wonders, like fire coming from Heaven just to deceives the unsaved, that he had Heavenly power, to keep them believing on him and follow him instead of following Christ.) **14 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.** (He was a deceiver through the miracles he was able to do, and enticed the unsaved and that they should make an image to the first beast that was wounded by a sword and healed and lived again.) **15 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.** (He had power to bring the image of the first beast to life, that he made the image of the beast to speak, and in doing such he worked out to let the image of the first beast to be worshipped by the perished people, Such kind of miracles was to amaze the people in order to follow him, and also cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. Therefore, in putting to death those who would refuse to worship the image of the first beast; so he would use persecution to force them to depart from God.) **16 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:** (This second beast shall mark the nonbelievers with a mark on their right hand and on their foreheads. He will cause all the unbelievers to have the marks on them because they were willing to follow him.) **17 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.** (The main function of the mark of the beast is to control commerce, that no transaction to be taken place, and that no man can buy or sell without having the mark on the right hand or on the forehead. That means if a person doesn't have the mark of the beast, he will not be able to buy and sell. About, *“the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name”*, if we link it with the invention of microchip that is inserted in the right hand or forehead, then from the technical point of view if we take the anatomical options, we may

ask this question: Why then it is not to be inserted in other places of the body, for example on the left hand, or the left thigh or in the abdomen? This may literally take place and microchips will be inserted in the right hand and in the forehead, but figuratively the right hand of man is the hand of power to earn living. So instead of trusting God for their living they will trust the beast and the mark of the beast and the power of devil in false miracles and in corruptions as source for their living. The mark on the forehead figuratively means instead they would trust God and follow Him, they will trust the beast and get bound with the beast and be in bondage in him. So now instead of putting God first and follow Him wholeheartedly, they will be following the beast as a source of direction and inspiration. Therefore whatever the form of, *“the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name”*, the purpose of it is to control commerce, the selling and the buying. The mark of the beast it could be literally will take place and happen during the second period of tribulation, but more dangerous than this is when the people shift their trust from God unto the beast, Satan, the dragon.) **18 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.** Note: *“Here is wisdom”*, during the tribulation, Satan will use unusual deceptions on the earth; but the main defense against the deception of the second beast and the blasphemy of the first beast is a call to have wisdom from God that will contradict the deception. Even if suppose they will do the microchip and insert it and those who do not have it will not be able to buy and sell and get their things; never mind our faith on God would help us to overcome that knowing that God shall provided all our needs and enable us to bypass that microchip. **Now it is the call for the wisdom of God that we need today to combat the evil forces that will come against us to deceive us. That we really need fully to trust God for all our needs and that He will enable us to pass through all the hardships of lives as we put our full trust on Him, and pray to Him and ask him to help us.** The first beast is a counterfeit of the power and resurrection of Christ, as it came to life after being wounded. The second beast promotes the first beast through deception about who Christ really is. In **Revelation 12**, Satan lost the war and started to fight the seed of the woman who keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus. So in **Revelation 13** illustrates how Satan will retain back his position on earth to produce a counterfeit deception to confuse the people from believing Christ, by using the first beast creating a blasphemous counterfeit Christ and the second beast creating deception that unbelievers would believe the first beast to be as Christ. Now what is meant by, *“Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast:”*? There are many thoughts and explanations of the number 666 in the commentaries that I read. Some they worked out that the number 666 to match certain years, or to match certain idols and idol worshippers, or certain events, or certain categories of people, and so on. **But I am not convinced on any one of those, and the only conclusion that I have is this: The description of the power of the mark of the beast is its control on economy and commerce.** It may be that as events, would unfold now or after the rapture, but the primary tool of Satan's deception is and it will be commerce control, that people will put their trust on mammon (money) and not on God. The deception of Satan may be centered on people trying to force them to worship both God and mammon (material things), knowing that such will not be acceptable, for *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matthew 6:24 KJV)* Therefore with such deception people will have much trust toward finances and what money can do in their lives more than their trust toward God. They will have false sense of security as long as they are having material things. That is why the devil will try to put more financial pressures on the people to try to pull them away from God to bring them

to him. Therefore, we need to understand and accept that persecution now and in the days to come is about finances. The devil may put us in more sanction and press us financially to force us to compromise, and to give in to his corruption, in order for us to leave Christ and His ways. Therefore, the more we need to trust God and persevere to preach and to live the Word of God and to be good steward to what God is giving us from material things, and to set good examples to others to follow.) (*Revelation 13:1-18 KJV*)

My dear and beloved: When the Word of God says “*For it is the number of a man;*” we may say the following about the number of the beast: It is a number of man and not of God. That God had numbered the days of His enemies, those who rise up against Him, for His Kingdom shall endure forever. “*For it is the number of a man;*” for it is man mortal power and arrangement that cannot stand against God and His power, therefore those who trusted in God will find themselves victorious in whatever the devil may do against us whether now or in the period of tribulation.

Let us come back to God in repentance. Let us put our full trust on Him, that whatever trials and hardships that we are passing through, let us trust Him that He can take us victoriously out of it. Let us stand firm and not to give in to all the pressures and the persecutions of the devil, knowing that there will be no true life and no salvation with corruption.

Let us also wake up and be watchful and discerning about all the deceptions that the devil may use around us and against us in order to confuse us to deviate us from following God, and to entice us to take wrong decisions and follow misleading ways that will take us away from Christ and away from His will and purpose in our lives.

Let us pray ...

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that gives me understandings, warnings and encouragements to stand firm, to take heed, to be watchful and discerning and willing to fight the good fight till the end, the time you come to take us.*

Devil I rebuke you in the name of Jesus. I bound all the lies, deceptions, corruptions, manipulations and the false miracles and the false healings of the devil in the name of Jesus, and I cast them all out by the blood of Jesus from my life and from the life of my brethren and from the Church of God in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Let us come now to God and renounce all our sins and so there will be no footholds for the devil in our lives. Renounce the fear of man, renounce the lack of trust on God, renounce the love of money, and your non willingness to serve God, your non willingness to suffer and live your life for Him. Renounce your worldliness, corruptions, compromises lies, immoralities, and your bondage in games, news and the Media. Renounce your bad stewardship and your bad example to the other people around you by the style of life you are living.

Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to apply what I learned in this message in my life, in the life of my family and ministry. Lord I commit myself to serve you and to live the style of life that you want me to live until you come to take us to Heaven.

Lord I ask you to help me and deliver me out from this trial in my life _____, and from the following problem _____, and from the following people _____.

Lord thank you for my Brethren and Sisters who repented and committed their lives to live in holiness and to serve you and to proclaim your Word and to set good examples to others. Lord protect them from all persecutions, and give them perseverance to bear the pressure of the devil and provide for them so they will continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as your church, protect us from all persecution and give us the perseverance and wisdom to endure all the manipulations of the devil until you come to take us to Heaven. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize to reach to new people with the gospel of Jesus and to make new disciples. Lord leads us to train new workers and to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.’ Lord bless us, enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. The grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Life after Death Part 14. Revelation Chapters 13. Christ Second Coming - the Tribulation. Revelation 13:1-18. Revelation 4:6. Matthew 6:24.

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