

**20231029 The time for patient endurance
and faithfulness on the part of God's people**
Revelation 13:1-18 (Back to the future Part 25)

- ¹ The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.
- ² The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.
- ³ One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.
- ⁴ People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?"
- ⁵ The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months.
- ⁶ It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.
- ⁷ It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.
- ⁸ All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast - all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.
- ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.
- ¹⁰ "If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed." This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.
- ¹¹ Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon.

- ¹² It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.
- ¹³ And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people.
- ¹⁴ Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.
- ¹⁵ The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.
- ¹⁶ It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads,
- ¹⁷ so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.
- ¹⁸ This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

Two individuals in chapter 13: The Antichrist and the false prophet

The chaos in the world: the pre-condition of the appearance of the Antichrist

2 Timothy 3:1-5

- ¹ But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.
- ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,
- ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,
- ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—
- ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power.

Matthew 10:21-23

²¹ Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.

²² You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

²³ When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

The spirit of the spiritual enemy, Satan (the Devil): Hatred

1. Satan's origin

Ezekiel 28:12-17

¹² "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him:

'This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

""You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared.

¹⁴ You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.

¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.

¹⁶ Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned.

So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.

¹⁷ Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor...

2. Satan's problem: Pride (sin)

Isaiah 14:13-14

¹³ You said in your heart,

"I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon (or of the North)

¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

There is no gray area in spiritual life (no middle ground, no maybe. Only yes or no in our spiritual attitude)

Matthew 12:30

³⁰ Anyone who isn't with me opposes me, and anyone who isn't working with me is actually working against me.

(If you haven't said yes to Christ, then it's the same as you have said no to Him.)

How can I make the commitment?

Knowing that Jesus is the Lord,

1. Admit that you have been the master of your own life.
2. Say to God that you are really sorry for that way of living.
3. Invite and accept Jesus as the Lord of your life. That's committing yourself to the Lordship of Christ.
4. Get baptized and become a member of a local church to obey God's command, and to show others that you are serious about following Christ.

The appearance of the Antichrist

Daniel 7:23-27

²³ Then he said to me, “This fourth beast is the fourth world power that will rule the earth. It will be different from all the others. It will devour the whole world, trampling and crushing everything in its path.

²⁴ Its ten horns are ten kings who will rule that empire. Then another king will arise, different from the other ten, who will subdue three of them.

²⁵ He will defy the Most High and oppress the holy people of the Most High. He will try to change their sacred festivals and laws, and they will be placed under his control for a time, times, and half a time.

²⁶ “But then the court will pass judgment, and all his power will be taken away and completely destroyed.

²⁷ Then the sovereignty, power, and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be given to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will last forever, and all rulers will serve and obey him.”

The Antichrist may be a gentile person.

Revelation 13:1

¹ The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw **a beast coming out of the sea**. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

The false prophet may be a Jewish person.

¹¹ Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon.

The difficulty in trusting in Jesus during the Great Tribulation

Revelation 13:8

⁸ All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast - all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.

Revelation 13:10

¹⁰ “If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go.

If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed.” This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people.