

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

17. The Two Beasts (2)



Revelation 13

Introduction

There is a tremendous conflict taking place, which is being outworked on the stage of the earth – a conflict between God and Satan. Satan's final attempt to usurp God will be to empower a man to rule the world, and through him capture the souls of men and women. This man is called the 'beast from the sea' or the Antichrist. In our previous study we learnt about this evil man, but alongside him is another called the 'beast from the earth' or the False Prophet.

Scripture Reading: Revelation 13:11-18



How is this 'second beast' described and what is his role? Revelation 13:11-13, 19:20

(He has two horns like a lamb and speaks like a dragon. He exercises authority on behalf of the first beast and performs signs and miracles on his behalf. He is also called the False Prophet.)

Both the Antichrist and the False Prophet receive their authority from the dragon, who is Satan. Revelation 13:4, 16:13-14. This circle of three is Satan's imitation of the Godhead – Satan is taking the place of God the Father, the Antichrist the place of Jesus Christ, and the False Prophet takes the place of the Holy Spirit. The final destination of each one of these wicked ones is the Lake of Fire. Revelation 20:10



Describe the ways in which Antichrist imitates what Jesus has done, and also how the False Prophet imitates the ministry of the Holy Spirit, through the Two Witnesses. Fill in the chart on the page below.



What events and miraculous signs convince the world that this man, who the Bible Calls Antichrist, is the 'Messiah' or 'God'?

(First of all there is the miraculous recovery of this man from a fatal wound that causes the world to marvel. Then the False Prophet performs signs, such as making fire to fall from heaven and enabling the image to speak.)

The conflict that is taking place is similar to that which took place in Egypt during the days of Moses. God was displaying His mighty power by sending the plagues on Egypt, but the magicians sought to imitate them. Exodus 7:11, 12, 8:7. However they could not duplicate all the miracles as we see in Exodus 8:19.

During these end times there will be Two Witnesses who perform signs and miracles. Revelation 11:5-6 The 'False Prophet' uses the power of Satan to imitate these and deceives the world. Today there is a rise of the 'supernatural', with an increase of healings and miracles from God, but also an increase of lying signs and wonders whose source is Satan.



It is very important that we learn to distinguish between these two sources. Discuss the Biblical guidelines that are given so we know what is from God and what is not. Matthew 7:15-21, 2 Corinthians 11:3-6, 1 Corinthians 2:14-15, 12:10

- (1. *Jesus warned us not to look at the outward things, such as the miracles themselves, but rather the fruit in a persons' life.*
- (2. *Paul also warned us not to be swayed by a persons' ability to speak, but to check that he is teaching the truth from God's Word.*
- (3. *We are only able to discern what is from God with the help of the Holy Spirit, so we need to ask Him.*)



Share briefly one experience you have had where you have discerned something was not from God. How did you know, and what did you do?

Conclusion

As we have seen, not everything that is 'supernatural' is from God. Jesus said that in the last days there would be great deception and it will reach its' height during the reign of the Antichrist and the False Prophet. Many Christians have simply rejected everything supernatural as they are afraid it may be from Satan, but we grieve the Holy Spirit when we deny His power.

We are living in the days prophesied about in the Bible, when there will be a mighty outpouring of God's Spirit in signs and wonders to gather in the final harvest. Don't allow fear to prevent you from being part of what God is doing in these days. Learn to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and follow the guidelines in His Word so you can discern what is from God and what is not.

A Comparison between Jesus & Antichrist

And the Holy Spirit & False Prophet

Jesus Christ	Antichrist
Rev. 19:12 'many crowns'	Rev. 13:1
Rev. 19:12, 16 'name written on Him'	Rev. 13:1
Rev. 12:10 'shares power & kingdom'	Rev. 13:2
Rev. 2:8, 5:6 'slain but came alive'	Rev. 13:3, 14
Rev. 1:6 'made us priests to worship God'	Rev. 13:4
Work of the Holy Spirit through the Two Witnesses	False Prophet
Rev. 11:5	Rev. 13:13
Rev. 11:6	Rev. 13:13
Rev. 11:3	Rev. 13:15
Rev. 11:9, 11	Rev. 13:14