

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“The Satanic Trinity”

Revelation 13:1-18

Introduction

1. The Tribulation Period predicted by Daniel’s 70 week’s prophecy (9:24-27) is the 70th one. It will be 7 years of great difficulty for Israel and Gentile nations left behind at the Rapture.

2. A major consideration of that Period relates to the Nation Israel and the Messiah. This also concerns to the casting out of heaven Satan through the war with Michael. Having been cast out of heaven to earth, Satan relentlessly persecutes the Nation and her Remnant (12:1-17).

3. At this juncture the Book of Revelation points to the progressive activities of Satan, the Great Red Dragon. As the Great Deceiver (12:9), it is clear that Satan substitutes what the true God is in fact.

Note: Scripture teaches trinitarian monotheism:

- a. The Father is God (1 Cor. 8:6).
- b. The Son is God (Jn 1:1-4, 14).
- c. The Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3, 4).

4. Against this backdrop of the Bible trinity, this chapter alerts God’s people to the infernal trinity. Look at those included:

1. DRAGON ---> SATAN (False God) v. 1
Supernatural

a. Identified

The first phrase of 13:1 is one of the most contested readings in this Book. The difference in the original is but a letter. In the one case, John is meant and the other the dragon. Interestingly, the paragraphing in the TR (Textus Receptus) includes the phrase with 12:17 which seems to favor the verb as a reference to the dragon. However, the person of the verb is first, hence speaks of John. The Majority Text views it as the the TR so the seer stood (εσταθην estathen, passive).

b. Described

Apparently as John stood, he viewed the relentless war of the Dragon with the remnant seed of the woman (12:17). With the “wrath” (ωργισθη orgisthe) and the “war” (πολεμιον polemon) of the Dragon, it is apparent the “sea” on which John stood sets forth the unformed mass of a troubled state of the world -- people in great agitation -- like the restless waves of the sea (cf. Is. 57:20, 21). A revolutionary condition among men is meant. John stands in such a situation to view further revelation from the Lord (cf. 1:1).

2. BEAST NO. 1 ---> ANTICHRIST (False Christ) vv. 1, 2
Political

The Bible specifically indicates that a personal Antichrist will come (1 John 1:18). The ideology already existed in the first century (1 John 4:3), but apart from that concept, the Antichrist is expected after the Rapture (2 Thess. 2:3). He is the person set forth here.

a. Identified

John “saw” (ειδον eidon) this beast coming up out of the sea. The verb is present tense (αναβαινον anabaino) pointing to gradual progress, but to the world suddenness. The sea is the raging torrent of nations. From this the Antichrist arises. He is a man (13:18).

b. Described vv. 1, 2

1) His Character -- He is a wild beast (θηριου τηριου). This term is found 46 times in the N.T., 38 of which are in Revelation. The word points to his untamed nature. He is a rebel.

2) His Corporation -- He has seven heads, 10 horns, 10 crowns (diadems) on the horns. These all indicate an empire of some sort (cf. 17:10-13). His conspiracy is against God, therefore upon his seven heads he has the name ‘blasphemies’ (βλασφημιασ blasphemas), cf. 17:3; 2 Thess. 2:4).

3) His Concentration -- Over all, the beast was like a ‘leopard.’ His feet were as those of a bear. His mouth as the mouth of a lion. All of these facets are predicted in the O.T. (Daniel 7:3-7). This is, therefore, a final confederation. It is the best that man can conjure up and points to the final grouping of nations in the last days.

4) His considerations -- From the dragon, this beast is given his power (δυναμιυ dunamin), his throne (θρονου thronon) and his great authority (εξουσιαν exousian) cf. 2 Thess. 2:9. The beast this accepts from Satan what our Lord refused (cf. Mt. 4:1-11).

3. BEAST NO. 2 ---> PROPHET (False Spirit) vv. 11, 12
Religious

a. Identified

Here is the third of the infernal trinity. He is the final and grossest false prophet. John saw (eidon eidon) this beast (θηριου therion). He is designated another of the same kind (αλλο allo). Unlike the first, he gradually comes up (same verb and tense as v. 1) “but of the earth.” This may be the abyss (cf. 13:1, 11:7; 17:8).

b. Described

1) His Character -- Strangely, this wild beast has (imperfect tense ειχνε eiche) the horns like a lamb. This connotes that the second beast is not a king of fierce countenance like the first. He will have the relatively persuasive ways of a great deceiver of men and will engage the worshipping faculties of man. All of this is linked with his speech (imperfect tense, ελαλει elalei) as a dragon. This is the very epitome of Satanic efforts since the beginning (2 Cor. 4:4; 11:13-15).

2) His Consideration -- He does (πολει poiei, present tense) all the authority of the first beast before him. He acts, therefore, like the supporter of the Antichrist. He stands as his religious proponent and gets all earth dwellers to worship (προσκυσεωσι proskunesosi) the first beast. The two beasts have a single aim -- substitute worship of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion The events detailed here relate to the future period of Tribulation. This will follow the Rapture of the Church. There is no reason to suggest that the Church should endure these times of satanic delusion. The explanation is simple: the Antichrist does not appear until the Spirit of God (indwelling the Church) is taken out of the way (2 Thess. 2:7, 8). What value, then, is the study of this sort if the believer of this Age of Grace will not be involved in it? Much every way. It provides information which is profitable from God (2 Tim. 3:16, 17). It is a learning from Him of truth yet to be demonstrated. It serves the same purpose of profit that studies in the Old Testament serve. But more than that, the events of the present cast their shadow on that to come. All of this outpouring of delusion does not, apparently, come at once. There is a build up. This serves to explain the many voices of today. They are the harbingers of the final expressions. It is well that all of us take heed and give ourselves unreservedly to the Word of God alone. Do not be misled, but be alerted to the Truth! Indeed, if you have not received the Lord Jesus as your personal Saviour from sin and aligned yourself with Him, do that today. Believe and be saved! As a believer, immerse yourself in the Word of God and don’t tamper with the false teachings being propagated by so many.