

INTRODUCTION

The revelation of the apostle John revealed information to God's saints, things that was not known in the epistles of the apostle Paul. The main one in view is that the Tribulation Period will see the rise of two men who will head up man's final kingdom of this world. This second man will have all the authority of the first beast. It is he who direct the activities of mankind during the Tribulation Period. Today, we will consider this man and his role during the Tribulation Period.

I. THE ORIGIN OF THE SECOND BEAST IS OUTLINED BY JOHN.

- A. He is "out of the earth", a phrase used several other places to note one of human origin.
 - 1. "The earth" is used in the New Testament often to note the things and the people here on the earth.
 - a) It is contrasted with heaven in several contexts. Rev. 5:3, 13
 - b) It is used to note life upon the earth. Col. 3:2
 - c) It is used of the people upon the earth. Rev. 13:13; 14:6
 - d) Some believe that this phrase is used specifically of the land of Palestine. Cf. Is. 24:1-6: 33:9 (of Palestine during the Trib. Period)
 - 2. The use of the ek preposition is used to note the origin of a person being from the earth. Cf. John 3:31
 - a) He is in direct contrast to the One being out from heaven.
 - b) He that is out from the earth "speaks" (verbalizes the things out from the earth).
- B. The beast is seen in contrast to the Medo-Persian ram with two horns. Rev. 13:11
 - 1. The ram with two horns represented the dual nature of the Medo-Persian empire. Cf. Dan. 8:3
 - 2. The second beast with two horns (noting a prince, ruler) represented the dual authority of the last kingdom.
 - a) The phrase "like a lamb" is used to signify the outward perception of the man is that of a docile lamb. Cf. Acts 8:32; Jer. 11:19
 - b) His speech, on the other hand, is liken to that of a dragon.
 - (1) Is used in Scripture to personify a monster. Jer. 51:34; Is. 27:1;
 - (2) It is used in the New Testament to personify satan. Cf. Rev. 12:3,4, 7, 9, 13

II. THE RELIGIOUS NATURE OF THE SECOND BEAST IS NOTED BY JOHN

A. The religious nature of the second beast is seen in his role as a "false prophet".

Rev. 16:13;19:20

1. The term "false prophet" is pseudoprophētēs.
 - a) Pseudo -- that which is false; untrue
 - b) Prophetes -- one used to foretell future events
2. The term false prophet is used several times in the New Testament, all with reference to the Jews.
 - a) Israel had false prophets in the nation. 2 Pet. 2:1
 - b) The apostle Paul encountered one on his first apostolic journey. Acts 13:6
 - c) The Lord prophesied the presence of them in the last days. Matt. 24:24
3. False Prophets are seen in Scripture as being used by Satan to blur the truth in order to deceive.
 - a) False prophets are not always obvious. Cf. Matt. 7:15
 - (1) They are adorned as sheep.
 - (2) They are inwardly "wolves" -- **"cruel, greedy, rapacious, destructive men."** -- Joseph Thayer
 - b) Barjesus was used of Satan to turn the deputy Sergius Paulus away from the faith. Acts 13:8

B. The religious nature of the second beast is seen in his ability to do miracles. Rev. 13:13; 19:20

1. "Miracles" is the word semeion which is one of three kinds of miracles done by the Lord and the apostles. Cf. Acts 4:30
 - a) Sign miracles are meant to make a particular point about the one doing the miracle--to validate; authenticate. Cf. John 2:23; 3:26:26; Mk. 16:17
 - b) Sign miracles can attract a crowd. Acts 8:6 (of those following Phillip)
 - c) Sign miracles can garner a following of those who witness them. John 6:2
2. The second beast is allowed to do miracles for the purpose of deceiving.
 - a) The earth dwellers are deceived. Rev. 13:14; Rev. 19:20
 - b) If God allowed it to continue, the elect could possibly be deceived. Cf. Matt. 24:24; Mk. 13:22
3. The calling down of fire from heaven was used by Elijah to authenticate his relationship to Jehovah. 2 Kings 1:10-14

III. THE AUTHORITY OF THE SECOND BEAST IS EQUAL TO THE FIRST BEAST.

- A. He exercises all the authority of the first beast. Rev. 13:12

- B. He directs the activities of men during the Tribulation Period.
 - 1. He instructs men to make the image to the beast. Rev. 13:14
 - 2. He directs the worship to the first beast. Rev. 13:12
 - 3. He kills all who will not worship the image of the beast. Rev. 13:15
 - 4. He causes all to receive the mark. Rev. 13:16
 - 5. He is the one that deceives the earth dwellers. Rev. 13:14; 19:20

CONCLUSION