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THE DEVIL'S TWO WITNESSES:
THE DICTATOR OF THE REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE
THE DICTATOR OF PALESTINE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION
REVELATION 13:1-9
NUMBER 21

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REVELATION 13:1-9 "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. 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. 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. 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? 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. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. 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. 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. If any man have an ear, let him hear."

If this were a hotel we wouldn't have a thirteen, but since this is the Bible, we have chapter thirteen. Here we have the devil's two witnesses.

Seven Points Of Introduction

1. In Revelation 11:1-14 we have the Lord's two witnesses for his Second Coming and here we have the Devil's two witnesses.
2. The Lord's two witnesses are heralds of Christ's Second Coming while the Devil's two witnesses are heralds which usher in the second fall of Satan.
3. In the Tribulation the two recorded areas of evangelism are Israel and Western Europe.
4. In these two areas the devil has two emissaries, one from Israel and one from Western Europe. Each one is both a religious and a political dictator.
5. Introducing the first of these dictators--He is a Gentile, the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire and he is also the head of the World Ecumenical Religious Movement.
The beast with seven heads is described in Rev. 17:8-13.
The ten toes of iron and clay are described in Daniel 2:31-45.
He is the Little Horn of Daniel 7.
He is the Prince that shall come of Daniel 9:26-27.
He is the man of sin of 2 Thess. 2:3-10.
6. Introducing the second of these dictators--A Jew, and he is the Dictator in Palestine during the Tribulation. He is the leader of Judaism during the Tribulation.
He is first described in Genesis 49:16-18. Dan the Serpent. He is from the Tribe of Dan and he is the one who strikes the horse's heel.
He is the false prophet found throughout the book of Revelation.
Rev. 16:13, Rev. 19:20, Rev. 20:10 - This is his religious leadership.
He is described as the King who does his own will in Daniel 11:36-40.
7. Two dictators of the Tribulation. The dictator of the Revived Roman Empire, a Gentile, and the Dictator of the land of Palestine, a Jew.

The Tribulation is a seven-year-period of power politics and spheres of influence. There are basically four spheres of influence.

1. The King of the North. The Russian block.
2. The Kings of the East. The Oriental block.
3. The King of the West--Revived Roman Empire.
4. The King of the South--The Pan-Arabic block.

We will study this in detail in Revelation 16 when we get to Armageddon. Also see this in Daniel 11, Ezekiel 38 and 39 and in Isaiah 63.

We studied last time how that the first sentence of this chapter really belongs to chapter 12 and should read, "He stood on the sand of the sea" and this refers to Satan.

REVELATION 13:1 "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." "And I saw" refers to John, the author of Revelation. The word "Beast" here refers to this dictator with great political and religious power. He is called a beast because of his wild power and demon possession. Rev. 9:11 and 11:7 and 17:6 tell he is a demon. The demon who possesses him is one of the highest fallen angels--Apollyon which is his Greek name, and Abaddon, which is his Hebrew name. He is the angel who is in command of the angels in the bottomless pit.

He is said to "rise out of the sea". Sea means area of nations as explained in Daniel 7:3. Now we have some information that helps us to get him lined up historically. He is said to have seven heads. Most people have one head, but need two. All these seven empires had one thing in common, they had removed self-government from Israel. They are Egypt, Assyria, Chaldea, Persia, Macedonia, Rome, and the Revived Roman Empire of the Tribulation.

The ten horns make up the nations who compose the Revived Roman Empire. The iron nations are the nations that were formerly in the Old Roman Empire and clay refers to the nations that were not in the Old Roman Empire and possibly the U.S.A. is one of these. These ten nations are controlled by Ecumenical Religion. The crowns means they started out as ten independent nations.

"And upon the heads blasphemy" and this means slander toward God. These are systems of religion based on human good. Salvation by works is the system by which they try to pull the world together.

REVELATION 13:2 "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." Here we have some analogies which will help us understand this dictator. Like unto a leopard--and this refers to the Graeco-Macedonian Empire. It refers to the rapidity with which Alexander the Great conquered the world. He was a genius and had great administrative ability. Alexander the Great at first hated the Persians because they had been such great enemies of the Greeks, but as he fought them and came to know them he realized that they were a superior people. He began to think in terms of world brotherhood and he commanded that all of his leading officers take Persian wives. Alexander the Great wanted to produce a super race, but before he realized his dream he suddenly died.

The second analogy is a bear and this refers to the Median-Persian Empire. It is referred to in Daniel 7:5 and 7:17. The same facts apply to the rise of the Persians. They had a great man also, named Cyrus the Great, and in twenty-five years he conquered most of the world. He extended his kingdom as far as India and even to this day in India the Parsees still exist.

The third analogy is the lion. This refers back to Daniel 7:4. This is the Chaldean Empire. The leaders of this great Empire had fantastic leadership ability.

So the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire will have characteristics like these leaders mentioned above. This verse just ties this dictator in with past history. The dragon is Satan who gave him his throne. Satan inspires this dictator and Satan gave him his power to pull this revived empire together.

Let us turn to 2 Thessalonians, chapter 2 and pick up this picture.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:3 "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition" That "man of sin the son of perdition" is a name for this dictator of the Revived Roman Empire. Just as Satan empowered Judas so he will inspire this dictator. Satan offered the kingdom to Jesus and he said, "No". This dictator will say, "Yes" to the same offer.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:4 "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." This is when this dictator will place his statue up in the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus had told them this would happen in Matthew 24:15.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:5 "Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?" Paul here reminds the Thessalonians that he had told them these things in a Bible Conference when he had been with them earlier.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:6 "And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time." The Holy Spirit acts as a restrainer and is holding back the forces of evil until Christ's work of redemption is complete in the earth.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:7 "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way." This verse states that the principles on which the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire will operate are already at work in the world.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:8 "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" This pinpoints the time at Christ's Second Advent when this dictator will be destroyed by Christ.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:9 "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" The working of this dictator is according to the norm and standard of Satan. He succeeds with Satanic power.

Signs here refers to miracles and lying wonders refers to speaking in tongues. The devil will use these methods in a moment of desperation.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:10 "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." People will reject Bible doctrine and accept the message of this false dictator.

Back now to Revelation 13.

REVELATION 13:3 "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."

The phrase "And I saw" is not in the original.

"One of his heads as it were wounded to death" refers to the first Roman Empire being destroyed in 476 A.D. That last Roman Emperor was named Romulus Augustus. The Germans came in and conquered Rome and placed this boy emperor in prison. From 49 to 44 B.C. Julius Caesar put together an empire and wrote out the foundation for the empire and his plan carried Rome for five hundred years down to 476 A.D. During that period from

96 to 192 A.D. under the Antonine Caesars the empire reached her golden age because of Bible doctrine. Even historians like Gibbons admits that this is true. "And his deadly wound was healed" refers to the revival of the Roman Empire.

In the next verses we will now see a description of this dictator's religious power. REVELATION 13:4 "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?" So the religion of the Tribulation was the worship of this dictator and Satan. Satan had a program of human works and the people all fell for his system. Satan's program was "Man by man's effort will solve man's problems". This has always been Satan's plan. The scripture is very clear stating that God can solve man's problems and this solution began at the cross with regeneration. There is absolutely no way for man to solve man's problems. So in this verse we see that Satan will completely dominate this dictator and he comes along with a world program of do-goodism and pretends to be able to save the world.

REVELATION 13:5 "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." This verse shows that this dictator has great speaking ability and in this way he was able to sway men over to his side.

REVELATION 13:6 "And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven." In this verse we see that this dictator will attack Jesus, The Trinity, and the Tabernacle. The phrase, "Those who dwell in heaven" refers to the church that was taken up at the beginning of the Tribulation.

REVELATION 13:7 "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." This refers to the war waged by this dictator and here is where the Tribulation martyrs come from. They witnessed with dying grace. Some men have their greatest influence in death. Dying offers us a great opportunity to witness for Christ. No Christian dies alone and for every death of every Christian, God provides dying grace. The power given this dictator was over kindreds (refers to all Jewish tribes) and tongues and nations refers to Gentiles. This is Satanic evangelism and Satanic Pentecost.

REVELATION 13:8 "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." This Satanic revival will be worldwide.

Let us look for a moment at the meaning of "The book of life".

It is mentioned in these verses---

PHILIPPIANS 4:3 "And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life."

REVELATION 3:5 "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

REVELATION 17:8 "The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."

REVELATION 20:12 "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

REVELATION 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

The Book of Life has every member of the human race written down in it.

Let us use the name of Charlie Brown as an illustration. The sins of the world were poured out on Christ when he died on the cross, including the sins of Charlie Brown. But suppose Charlie Brown refused to believe in Christ? Then the name of Charlie Brown was blotted out of the book of life. By the time we get to eternity the only names left in the book of life will be the names of all born again individuals. During time the book of life has the names of all members of the human race, but when we get to eternity only the names of believers are left in it. Unbelief in Christ blots their names out.

JOHN 3:18 "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

JOHN 3:36 "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Then we have here the word "Lamb". This reference to the lamb takes us back to Old Testament times before Christ died on the cross. The lamb died by bleeding to death and the priest took the blood and spread it over the mercy seat. Now when we come to the cross, the blood speaks of the sins poured out on Christ and judged. Blood is an analogy referring to the spiritual death of Christ. All the sins of the world were poured out on Christ. Christ didn't die from bleeding to death. He died because of our sins, then after he died spiritually for our sins, he dismissed his spirit and died physically. There is no magic in the physical blood of Christ. We need to know what the blood really means. These animals they put on the altar were killed and they bled to death, but Christ died spiritually for our sins. People back in Old Testament times were saved just exactly as people are saved today--by having faith in Christ.

This is the meaning of atonement. It comes from the word "Kaphar" and it means covering. They caught the blood from the animal sacrifice and covered the mercy seat with it. Christ took our sins and died for them all and his shed blood is the evidence of the fact that by his death our sins are covered.

REVELATION 13:9 "If any man have an ear, let him hear." One of the greatest instruments with which we believe is the ear. Through the ear gate truth flows into our minds. Every believer has an ear and every believer is to take in doctrine. So here Christ commands us to hear. Let him hear! This is an aorist, active, imperative and means at the point of time when you hear, you are to believe. Christ commands us to do this and we cannot ignore one of his commands.