

Revelation 13:11-18 *The Beast from the Earth – The Fifth Sign*

This cycle contains seven signs. The beast out of the earth is the fifth of these signs.

[11] Then I saw another beast which rose out of the earth; it had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.

What could be more harmless than a beast with two horns like a lamb? What could be more attractive than a voice like a dragon?

But this beast is neither harmless nor desirable.

If the Beast out of the sea represents government persecution, the beast out of the earth represents corrupted Christianity

Though harmless looking, the beast speaks for Satan.

Satan uses both persecuting power (Rev13:1-10) and perverting power (Rev 13:11-18) to destroy the church. This is not new; Satan has been using this tool throughout the Gospel age.

[12] It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is not strange if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

This shows that this spirit of deception was already at work in the time of the New Testament.

Many people believe that this will become worse and worse as the end draws near.

"Every Christian should dread a Christless Bible, a wrathless God and a cross-less Christ, and should run from any minister who fits the description." – Roger Ellsworth

[13] It works great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in the sight of men;

[14] and by the signs which it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast, it deceives those who dwell on earth, bidding them make an image for the beast which was wounded by the sword and yet lived;

[15] and it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast so that the image of the beast should even speak, and to cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.

While it seems somewhat laughable, the Roman priest of John's day used this kind of deception that is described here.

They made images of the emperors and made their eyes glow and their mouth move.

False religion seeks to control so that the "worshippers" should be marked with the mark of the beast.

This mark is false government. This government controls commerce and trade and even who can buy food. (vs. 16-17)

False government (Rev 13:1-10) and false religion (Rev 13:11-18) work together and even seem innocent (like a lamb).

*Notice also how Satan mimics true religion and worship. There is an unholy trinity of the dragon and the two beasts. The wounded beast even comes back to life. He wishes to deceive "even the elect". **Matthew 24:24** For false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.*

Rev 13:16-18 The Mark of the Beast

[16] Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead,

[17] so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

[18] This calls for wisdom: let him who has understanding reckon the number of the beast, for it is a human number, its number is six hundred and sixty-six

The beast requires all his followers to be marked with the number of his name (v.17)

Is this number actual or symbolic? While the godless have the mark of the beast (v.17), the Godly have the name of the Lamb and His Father's name written on their foreheads. (Rev 14:1)

The number 666 is a human number (v.18), that is the number of man. It ever falls short of 777, which is God's number.

The mark on the forehead makes us think of the thinking of man-centered, godless way. The mark on the right hand represents the actions which come from godless thinking.

Revelation 14:1-5 *The Sixth Sign – Glorious worship in heaven. This occurs after the final judgment.*

Satan seeks to destroy Christ, His church, and His followers.

He is destined to fail.

Revelation 14 shows that those who follow Christ (the 144,000) are destined for eternal joy (vs. 1-5) and those who follow Satan, to eternal misery (vs. 6-20)

[1] Then I looked, and lo, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

*The Lamb stands for Christ **Revelation 5:12** saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"*

*and Mount Zion stands for heaven **Hebrew 12:22-24** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to a judge who is God of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks more graciously than the blood of Abel.*

So, John sees the Lord Jesus in heaven.

The Lord Jesus has the 144,000 with Him (Rev 7:4). In this passage, the 144,000 represents all those redeemed by the atoning death of Christ. All 144,000 are present ... "when the roll is called up yonder..."

[2] And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; the voice I heard was like the sound of harpers playing on their harps,

[3] and they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who had been redeemed from the earth.

They sing a new song which is obviously the song of redemption.

The 144,000 have the name of the Lamb and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

Does this mean that their thinking is governed by God?

[4] It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are chaste; it is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes; these have been redeemed from mankind as first fruits for God and the Lamb,

[5] and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are spotless.

This group is described as:

1. *Not being defiled by women. This symbolizes that His people (both men and women) are not guilty of spiritual adultery (compare this with the Prophecy of Hosea). They refuse to worship the beast (Rev 13:15). They resist the seduction of the great harlot (Rev 17:1-2)*

2. *Following the Lamb wherever He goes. (v.4)*

3. *Redeemed for God. (v.4)*

4. *Not characterized by deceit (v.5). They refused to exchange the truth of God for a lie. **Romans 1:25** because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for ever!*