

# Revelation Part 12 | 7/30/17

- Review
  - Satan lost in a battle and was thrown down to earth.
  - He took a position of power 12:17
    - “...And he stood on the sand of the sea”
  - Satanic characters
    - Dragon – Satan
    - Beast – antichrist who is a man
    - False Prophet (2<sup>nd</sup> beast) false witness
  - The antichrist comes to power and is worshiped.
  - All who are not Christian will worship the antichrist.
  - There is a call of endurance on the Christians.
- The false prophet (2<sup>nd</sup> beast) | Revelation 13:11-13
  - **Read Revelation 13:11-13**
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> beast is the false prophet of Satan. This distinction is given later in Revelation.
    - Revelation 19:20
      - “And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image...”
  - The purpose of the false prophet is to deceive and turn the world to worship the antichrist.
    - The false prophet will be like that of a prophet or spiritual leader.
      - The objective of the false prophet is to cause the world to worship Satan as god.
      - The antichrist will be a man who comes to power as a world ruler, but he will have a spokesman the false prophet who will deceive the world into worshiping the antichrist as a god.
    - He will not come as one who gives the appearance of evil, but will appear righteous and will lead the world astray.
      - 2 Corinthians 11:14-15
        - “And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So, it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.”
    - The false prophet will perform great signs and wonders.
      - The false prophet will have the ability to deceive the world through great signs and wonders that will be very successful.
      - He will be able to call fire down upon the earth which was a capability of God’s two witnesses.
      - Matthew 24:24
        - “For false Christ’s and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.”
    - The deceit of the false prophet will be unlike anything Satan has been able to do previously. This will be his pinnacle act of deceit to turn the people of the world away from the message of truth, to a message of lies brought by Satan.
- The image of the beast | Revelation 11:14-15
  - **Read Revelation 11:14-15**
  - Not only will the world worship the antichrist as “god”, but he will convince them to create an idol or image of him.

- This image then will be given “breath” which likely isn’t “true” life but a false deception. This will further give credibility to the false prophet and the antichrist.
- **This is also likely the “abomination of desolation” spoke of by Jesus and Daniel.**
  - Jesus spoke of the “abomination of desolation” which was referenced in the Book of Daniel when speaking to what the antichrist will achieve.
    - Matthew 24:15
      - “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),”
      - **The antichrist will put himself in the temple in Jerusalem.**
    - Daniel 9:27
      - “And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”
    - Daniel 11:36
      - “And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done.”
  - Satan through the antichrist will take his place on the throne in the temple, he will seek to achieve his goal of being worshiped.
    - 2 Thessalonians 2:4
      - “who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.”
    - Satan will succeed during this time and he will be worshiped and control the world during this time.
- **While this time has not yet come, in what way we see signs of this false truth that causes people to “worship” or follow Satan even when that’s not what it looks like on the surface?**
- Mark of the beast (666) | Revelation 11:16-18
  - **Read Revelation 11:16-18**
  - **While the mark is only given three verses, this is one of the most talked about passages from Revelation.**
  - Once the antichrist has risen to his full power and he is worshiped, he will then control the world's commerce.
    - The antichrist will not only be worshiped but he will control and rule the world. He will control all of its commerce and unless one has the “mark of the beast” on their right hand or forehead will not be able to buy or sell.
  - **Those who are lost and deceived will be the ones who obtain the mark, but the Christian will not.**
    - **To obtain the mark is to submit to the antichrist, it will be to deny Christ.**
      - To take this mark will require one to worship the antichrist, not just participate in some form of world commerce.
    - **We are told later in Revelation that the true believers neither submitted or took the mark.**
      - Revelation 20:4
        - “Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also, I saw the souls of those who had

been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”

- These are also known as tribulation martyrs as many will lose their life.
- **Those who take the mark will receive God’s wrath in full strength and will be tormented for eternity.**
  - We are told in chapter 14 that those who worship the beast and take the mark will receive God’s wrath in full strength.
    - Revelation 14:9-11
      - “And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.”
- **To take the mark will not be accidental**
  - I believe that these passages show us that we cannot “accidentally” take of the mark of the beast.
  - To take the mark will not be something we do accidentally or are tricked into, it will be intentional for those who do it.
  - They will knowingly worship the beast and hence state their allegiance with Satan and will deny God.
- So then what is the mark and what will it look like?
  - There has been great speculation and research that has gone into trying to discover what the mark of the beast “666” may look like and many try to pair with something in the world today.
    - This is the same as with the identity of the antichrist.
  - The Bible describes the mark as:
    - “the name of the beast or the number of its name”
  - While there are many theories and assumptions, the Bible does not give us the specifics which was intentional.
    - **Clearly this is one of the “secret things” that belong to the Lord.**
    - Deuteronomy 29:29
      - “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever,…”
    - The mark will be clearly seen when the antichrist comes to power and distributes the mark.
  - **Some of the perspectives today on what this mark will be**
    - **Many see it as an emergence with technology.**
    - In that the world’s financial system has become digital and with the invention of things like credit cards, biometric scanners and micro-chips that can be implanted.
      - There are religious groups who refuse the digital currency for this very reason.

- Some see it as a tattoo or something similar to emperor worship in the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century that required one to recite “Caesar is Lord” and then received a parchment showing they had done so.
  - While we can speculate it is likely unwise to go very far with this.
    - I believe that God intentionally left out the details and therefore we should accept that.
    - By trying to “figure it out” we can end up putting unnecessary restrictions or fear in others based off of our attempts to understand a hidden truth of God.
    - God will reveal it at the proper time.
  - What we do know is that there will be a time with the antichrist will rule on earth and will control the worlds commerce.
  - **What do you envision this time of rule under the antichrist to look like?**
- Interlude and events of preparation prior to (and after) the final 7 bowls of God’s wrath.
  - Chapter 14 and 15 give us various details of things taking place in heaven and earth both before and after God’s final pouring of wrath upon the world that takes place in the 7 bowls that start in chapter 16.
    - The return of the 144,000 whom God used and set aside for His purpose.
    - We will hear from 3 angel messengers bringing different messages of truth to the world.
    - A call to the Christians for their perseverance in maintaining their commitment to the commandments of God and faith in Jesus Christ.
    - Future events on the reaping of the harvest of the earth and the slaughter of God’s enemies.
    - The heavenly preparation of the 7 plagues which are the final 7 bowl judgments.
- The Lamb and the 144,000 | Revelation 14:1-5
  - ***Read Revelation 14:1-5***
  - We are now taken to Mount Zion where we see the Lamb who is Christ, standing with the 144,000 Jewish converts.
    - These are the same 144,000 from chapter 7 that are Jewish Christians that God uses to proclaim is message of truth into the world during the tribulation.
  - They in direct contrast to the mark of the beast, have the mark of God.
    - Instead of the beast’s mark which shows their allegiance to Satan, they have God’s name written on their foreheads.
  - These 144,000 then sung a “new song” of praise and redemption that only they know.
    - Even in the midst of the rule of the antichrist Christ is still in control and praise and glory is given to Him.
- The three angel messengers | Revelation 14:6-11
  - ***Read Revelation 14:6-11***
  - The first angel tells the world to “Fear God, give Him glory and worship”, it is a message of final proclamation to turn to God.
    - God always seeks and desires for the lost to turn to Him, even at this time God still provides an opportunity for repentance.
    - The message proclaimed by the angel sums up the Gospel much as did Solomon in the closing verse of Ecclesiastes.
      - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
        - “The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

- In fact, this passage seems to directly reflect what Solomon had stated before and is the fulfillment.
      - No longer is judgment coming, but it has come.
    - This is the final time that those who are lost in the world have an opportunity to repent and turn to God. The time of God’s judgment and the end of His patience is at hand.
  - The second angel delivers the message of judgment towards Babylon (the world).
    - Those who do not respond will be those receive God’s judgment.
      - God has been extremely patient, but that patience is running out.
      - His patience is so that the lost may come to repentance.
        - 2 Peter 3:9
          - “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”
      - But that patience is coming to an end.
    - **Babylon is referenced several times in Revelation and here Babylon represents the world as it is under the antichrist.**
      - It’s the economic and false religious system that Satan controls and its followers who deny Christ.
      - **Historically Babylon is essentially the birthplace of idolatry, it is there where the Tower of Babel was built.**
      - The sins and evil within it have spread to all corners of the earth.
    - **This judgment anticipates and speaks to what will happen in chapter 16 and 18.**
      - Revelation 16:19
        - “The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nation’s fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine and the fury of his wrath.”
      - Revelation 18:2
        - “And he called out with a mighty voice, Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons..”
  - The third angel speaks to wrath those who worship the beast will receive.
    - As we previously saw those who take the mark of the beast will be those who worship him and deny Christ.
    - Their judgment will be an eternal punishment of suffering in hell.
    - **To take the mark of the best will be to deny Christ.**
- The endurance of the saints. | Revelation 14:12-13
  - **Read Revelation 14:12-13**
  - Then there is a call for the endurance of the saints (Christians) to persevere.
  - It is a call to those who obey and have faith in Jesus Christ.
  - Those who believe in Jesus Christ will endure, the time will be hard and many will be martyred but they will maintain their obedience and faith in Jesus Christ.
  - Christians will persevere and will not lose their faith, once saved having their names written in the Lamb’s book of Life, they cannot be removed.
  - Christians are also called to persevere during their Christian life.
    - Hebrews 10:36
      - “For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.
    - James 1:2-4 (HCSB)

- “Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trial, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.”
  - **How would you describe perseverance in the life of a Christian today? What does that look like?**
  - **What is the result of having gone through various trials? What benefit is there to us?**
- The Harvest of the final judgment | Revelation 14:14-20
  - ***Read Revelation 14:14-20***
  - These verses depict a harvest of the earth, however instead of a fruitful harvest of born again Christians, this will be a harvest of sinners and God’s judgment.
    - This harvest likely represents the final battle that is yet to come in Revelation 19:11-21
  - We might initially think of good things about the harvest, but this is not the case.
  - There will be a time at the final battle of Armageddon in which all of the sinners of the world will be killed.
    - There will be an end time in which God’s patience for judgment will run out and all those on the earth that do not know Him, will be judged and condemned.
  - The winepress speaks to the volume of those who will lose their lives on this day, with imagery of blood being 4ft high and 180 miles long.