

GOD'S PROPHECIES

FOR

PLAIN PEOPLE

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Chapter Six -

The Beast King and the False Prophet

In the thirteenth chapter of the Revelation two terrible personages appear, in connection with the dreadful scenes of the End-time. One is a King on the throne of an universal empire, and the other is the head of a world-wide religious system under the sovereignty of the King. There is some confusion among Bible teachers and scholars as to the proper designation of these two characters. Some speak of them as "The Antichrist and the False Prophet," thus applying the term "Antichrist" to the King; others speak of them as "The King and the Antichrist," thus applying the term "Antichrist" to the False Prophet.

In the chapter itself the term "Antichrist" does not occur. The only use of the term anywhere in the bible is by the writer of the Revelation, in the First and Second Epistles bearing his name. In I John 2:18-22 it is written:

"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son" (I John 2:18-22).

Again in chapter 4:1-4, of the same Epistle, John writes:

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:1-4).

And yet once more, in the Second Epistle, the same writer says:

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist" (II John 7).

All this would indicate that, technically speaking, the term "Antichrist" belonged to the False Prophet rather than to the King.

The Beast King of the End-Times (Revelation 13:1-10)

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a Beast rise up out of the sea" (Revelation 13:1).

The beast is a familiar figure in the Bible, representing a political power. From comparison with the visions of Daniel, as we shall see a bit farther on, the conclusion is irresistible that this "Beast" is in type and symbol the revived Roman Empire. It rises **"up out of the sea"** of the Gentile nations: **"And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues"** (Revelation 17:15). In this verse the sea sign is employed and interpreted.

"Having seven heads and ten horns" (verse 1).

Seven is the number of completeness; here it speaks of universal power and dominion: **"And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns"** (verse 7). The ten horns correspond with the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Image and the ten horns of the fourth Beast in Daniel's vision described in his seventh chapter. Indeed, Daniel 7:7, 8 is another picture of the same thing that we are looking upon in Revelation 13:1, 2. **"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things"** (7:7, 8). The ten horns and the ten toes speak of the ten sub-divisions of the Roman Empire which will be confederated to make up the revived Roman Empire.

"And upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy" (verse 1).

Ten kings, wearing crowns (Greek, diadems), join together in a League of Nations, under the sovereignty of the Emperor, and thus constitute the Empire, as shown in Daniel 7: **"And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings"** (Daniel 7:24) and **"And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast"** (Revelation 17:12). The name (lit., names) of blasphemy are explained by the sixth verse of our chapter.

"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" (Revelation 13:2).

Turn now to the seventh chapter of Daniel, and read it through. The Beast out of the sea in Revelation 13:1, 2 is the same as the **"dreadful and terrible"** fourth Beast in Daniel 7:7, 8. Compare also, **"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay"** (Daniel 2:40-43).

It is Rome.

The world-monarchy preceding Rome was Greece, symbolized by the leopard of Daniel 7:6, **"After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it,"** as also by the rough goat of Daniel 8:5, which is identified in Daniel 8:21 as **"the King of Grecia"** (or kingdom). Before Greece there was Medo-Persia, the bear kingdom of Daniel 7:5, seen also in the ram of Daniel 8:3-7 and named in Daniel 8:20. Before Medo-Persia was Babylon, the lion kingdom of Daniel 7:4. John tells us that the Beast out of the sea which he saw **"was like unto a leopard,"** but with feet like a bear, and a mouth like a lion's mouth. That is to say, in the last great Gentile monarchy there will be a spirit of all the Gentile monarchies that have gone before it. Greece, Medo-Persia, and Babylon are headed up in this last great Empire. A beast is an apt symbol of them all. It is significant that a beast or bird of prey is the adopted symbol of all the nations of the Earth.

"And the Dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority" (Revelation 13:2).

The Dragon is Satan himself

"And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years" (Revelation 20:2).

He gives to this revived world Empire his own power. The word for "seat" is *thronos*, and means "throne." Satan is the Prince of this world, according to the testimony of our LORD Himself: **"Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out . . . Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me"** (John 12:31; 14:30). He is the **"Prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience"** (Ephesians 2:2). He once offered **"his power, and his seat, and great authority"** to the Son of GOD, who refused his offer (Luke 4:5, 6). Here Satan finds a man - the superman for whom the world is looking - and to this superman Satan gives his throne and his power and his authority. The LORD JESUS spoke of this superman in John: **"I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall**

come in his own name, him ye will receive" (John 5:43).

"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?" (Revelation 13:3, 4).

It is easy to understand that such a mighty monarch would have the world at his feet. This world to-day is searching for a man who is able to still the seething cauldron of Europe, to say nothing of the restless nations outside of Europe. Should such a man arise - one powerful enough to subdue the nations, one against whom no one could successfully prosecute war, one so energized by superhuman, supernatural power as to get into his hands the reins of international rulership - the world would go after him *en masse*. And if the world came to know that all this power, manifested in the man on the throne, was the power of Satan, the world would not be slow to worship **"the Dragon which gave power unto the Beast."** It is but a step, essentially, from the rejection of the Son of GOD to the worship of Satan who is opposed to GOD. Farther on in this chapter we shall see how the worship of the Emperor is to become the state religion of the whole Earth in that dreadful day.

"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" (Revelation 13:5).

Here we have a time-note that helps us to locate the manifestation and reign of the Beast-King. The forty-two months spoken of here are identical with the 1260 days of the ministry of the two witnesses from Heaven (Revelation 11:3); and with the **"time, times and a half"** of Daniel 12:7. The exact parallel is found in Daniel 7:25, where the same "Beast" is in view, and where it is written that he will **"think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."** In Daniel a "time" is a year, and three and one-half years are the final years of **"the times of the Gentiles"** spoken of by our LORD in Luke 21:24. It is the time of the Great Tribulation, the latter half of the amazing final seven years, of which we recently studied together.

"And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in Heaven" (Revelation 13:6).

This terrible King, the Man of Sin and Son of Perdition, **"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, showing himself that he is God."** His **"coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish"** (II Thessalonians 2:3-10). Such is this blasphemer. And the Raptured Church, as well as GOD Himself, will be the object of his blasphemies. He will blaspheme **"them that dwell in Heaven,"** and we shall by that time be included in that happy company.

"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" (Revelation 13:7).

The "saints" here are the Jewish remnant of the End-Time, together with that innumerable

company, out of all the nations, seen in the seventh chapter of The Revelation, who refusing to worship the Beast King, shall die for the testimony of JESUS and for the Word of GOD. The Great Tribulation is to come before us in a later study in this series, and therefore we do not go into particulars here.

"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" (Revelation 13:8).

What a time of testing and sifting that will be! It will avail nothing in that day merely to profess to know GOD. The form of godliness will not do. Blessed indeed - then as now - to have the assurance that one's name is "written in Heaven": **"To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in Heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect"** (Hebrews 12:23).

"If any man have an ear, let him hear" (Revelation 13:9).

Oh, for the anointed ear, to enable us to hear the voice of the SPIRIT of GOD!

"He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints" (Revelation 13:10).

A much abused and overworked verse!

Taken from its context, and removed from its God-given place, it has been made to do duty many a time for the "pacifist" and the "conscientious objector." It belongs in the End-Time, and is an exhortation and warning directed to GOD's people of that time, to save them from resorting to force to establish their rights. Let them wait only on GOD, who will **"avenge them speedily"** (compare Luke 18:8).

The False-Prophet of the End-Time (vss. 11-18)

"And I beheld another Beast coming up out of the Earth" (Revelation 13:11).

The first Beast is a Gentile, rising out of the sea of the nations. The second Beast is an apostate Jew, coming out of the earth. The Earth is suggestive of Israel, GOD's earthly people, with earthly promises and earthly people with earthly promises and earthly destiny.

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; And he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon" (Revelation 13:11).

It is characteristic of all false prophets to parade themselves as representatives of the LAMB, and then to teach and preach doctrines of Satan. **"Try the spirits whether they are of God."** Watch them. Look not upon their outward appearance. What do they say? How do they speak? Is there doctrine of GOD or of man? Here is a timely word, even for our day. **"Despise not prophesyings, prove all things; hold fast that which is good."**

"And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and

them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed"
(Revelation 13:12).

In the third verse we saw one of the Beast's heads as healed after a mortal wound. The Roman Empire has been reckoned dead by the world for centuries. It will be revived, and it will have a head, that is an Emperor. His pomp and power will amaze the world, and the world will be called upon to worship him.

"And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from Heaven on the earth in the sight of men" (Revelation 13:13).

"The Jews require a sign," and here is a sign for those who turn from GOD in that day of fiery trial. It is Elijah's chosen sign on Mount Carmel. It will deceive all but the very elect.

"And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles (signs) which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live"
(Revelation 13:14).

This is the third chapter of Daniel over again. Nebuchadnezzar was the first ruler in the period called the Times of the Gentiles; the Beast King of the End-Times will be the last ruler in that period. Both Nebuchadnezzar and the Beast King introduce universal idolatry as the state religion of the whole world, demanding worship of their own persons on pain of death for refusal.

"And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed" (Revelation 13:15).

This image is the **"abomination of desolation"** spoken of by Daniel and by the LORD JESUS. It will be set up in the holy of holies of the Tribulation Temple at Jerusalem, displacing the ark of the covenant and the mercy-seat.

"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads" (Revelation 13:16).

This mark of the Beast is the alternative in that day for those who refuse the seal of GOD (compare chapter 7).

"And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the Beast, or the number of his name" (Revelation 13:17).

It is universal boycott. It means, worship the Emperor or starve. There is nothing new about it, except the world wide extent of it. The Roman Emperors in olden time often proclaimed themselves divine, and demanded and received divine honors; and woe to the man who in those days refused to bow the knee and burn incense to the Caesars! Thus will it be again, but when it comes again it will reach out into the uttermost parts of the world.

"Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six" (Revelation 13:18).

There are many pictures of this dreadful and terrible Beast King in the Word of GOD. Let my readers meditate prayerfully such passages as:

"And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand" (Daniel 8:23-25).

and

"And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain. And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him" (Daniel 11:36-45).

We shall be studying them together when we take up the Great Tribulation. Meanwhile, observe that we have in this closing verse an exhortation to **"count the number of the beast."** In Daniel 12:10, it is writing that **"the wise shall understand"**; and here we read, **"Let him that hath understanding count the number of the Beast."**

And then it says: **"It is the number of a man."** What is man's number in the Scriptures? Those who have understanding tell us that man's number is *six*. Under the law, man's weekly labor was

limited to six days, for GOD has so constituted man that he must rest after six days, or grow old before his time and break down. The seventh is GOD's day, and *seven* is the number of divine completeness throughout the Scriptures.

Man's number is *six*. The Beast King's number is a trinity of sixes - 666.***

Through the Beast King, Satan will seek to reproduce the works of GOD. He fails, because, after all, the Beast King is "**a man, and not God**," though he may set his heart as the heart of GOD, and claim to be GOD (Ezekiel 28). The effort of the Trinity of Evil to imitate GOD's work results in failure. The register is never *seven*, but always *six*.

The number *six* was stamped upon the image of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 3: it was *sixty* cubits high and *six* cubits broad; and its glory was heralded by a great band or orchestra in which *six* instruments are named. It was all of *man*, and *man's number* is seen upon it. In the image-worship of the End-Time *man's number* is fully developed, and the result is *six* and *six* and *six* - 666.***

The destiny of the Beast King and False Prophet is seen in Revelation 19:20 and 20:10. At the second coming of CHRIST to judgment they are cast alive into the Lake of Fire. At the end of the Millennium they are seen, still there and still alive, when Satan is cast in to join them, and there shall the three - the Trinity of Evil - "**be tormented day and night for ever and ever.**"

*****Editor's Note:** *Lest this author confuse others by his interpretation of this verse, the number of man is six - but this verse states the number of a specific man - the beast, which is not triple sixes, but six hundred and sixty six. This is a very important distinction to make for those who will actually be alive at that time to count the number of this one-world ruler.*

~ end of chapter 6 ~
