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# *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*

*"Look Who's Talking Now"*

13:11-15

Calvary Hanford

One of the great villains of literature and film would have to be Cruella De Vil. In her quest for fur she gathered together 101 Dalmations - puppies, no less.

True to her villainy she had henchmen to do her dirty work. Horace and Jasper were, lucky for the puppies and Pongo and Purdie, bumbling.

The antichrist has a henchman. Unlucky for folks in the Tribulation he is not bumbling. He is brilliant. He is introduced here and called "the false prophet."

He is the person who sets out to convince the world that the antichrist is worthy and deserving of worship. He is the one who enforces the worship of antichrist upon the penalty of death.

Revelation 13:11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.

The antichrist is called “the first beast” and the false prophet is referred to as “another beast,” meaning another of the same nature. He will be cruel and of course hostile to believers.

The antichrist rises out of the “sea,” which might be a reference to the Mediterranean Sea but could also be referring to the mass of humanity. Even if it’s the Mediterranean it simply means the antichrist will come from, or be descended from, that part of the world.

The false prophet comes from the “earth.” I’m sure it is a clue to his origins but I don’t know what it means. It is the common word for earth and simply indicates he will be a man as opposed to a supernatural agent.

As mentioned, the “sea” might refer to the Mediterranean and so the “earth” or land would refer to the Holy Land. Some therefore think this beast will be a Jew, a false prophet among Jews who seeks to persuade men to follow the beast as the antichrist.

It seems unlikely he would be Jewish because of the persecution that will break out against the Jews mid-tribulation. But, some argue, wasn’t Hitler part Jewish yet still persecutor of the Jews?

No, he wasn’t. That’s an old myth that has been debunked.

His description as having “two horns like a lamb” is interesting in that everywhere else the word “lamb” is used in the Revelation it refers to Jesus. It is used twenty-eight times and only this one time does it refer to the false prophet.

It has led some to speculate that this man will claim to be Jesus. We know from our Lord that the beginning of the Tribulation, the first half, will see a slew of false Christ’s rise up.

Matthew 24:11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.  
Matthew 24:23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it.

Matthew 24:24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Matthew 24:25 See, I have told you beforehand.

Matthew 24:26 "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it.

It's likely he will be one of them.

More than that: He will emerge as the leader of a false religious system (of which we read more about in chapter seventeen).

Though claiming to be Christ or Christ-like, the false prophet will speak "like a dragon." It means his words will be satanic. He will be motivated by the power of the devil, who is the dragon.

Revelation 13:12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

"In his presence" means *on the behalf of*. He has all the antichrist's authority and makes things happen in his evil administration.

One major thing that he makes happen is to cause "the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast whose deadly wound was healed." We saw last time that the antichrist will be assassinated but will rise as God grants Satan the ability not to create life but to resuscitate the antichrist and bring him back from physical death.

This might be a good place to mention that Satan seems to be mimicking the Godhead by establishing his own unholy trinity.

- The dragon, the antichrist, and the false prophet correspond to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Just as it is the Holy Spirit's task to point people to Jesus, to worship Him, so the false prophet promotes worship of the antichrist.
- Just as the Holy Spirit uses the historic truth of the resurrection to convince men of Jesus, so the false prophet will point to the rising of

the antichrist from his fatal wound to convince men to follow the antichrist.

Further, just as the original disciples of Jesus performed miracles to verify the truth of the resurrection, so the false prophet will perform miracles. We read about them in verse thirteen.

Revelation 13:13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

“Performs” is in a tense that indicates repeated activity. He does sign after sign. The “signs” are designed to persuade mankind to follow the antichrist. They point to him as the one to watch and worship.

One of the “signs” is “he even makes fire come down from Heaven in the sight of men.” This can be understood in one of two ways:

1. It could be fire from Heaven similar to that of the two witnesses we encountered earlier. We think the two might be Elijah and Moses. One of their defenses for the first half of the Tribulation is that fire comes out of their mouths. Back in the day, Moses performed various signs that were mimicked by the magicians of Egypt. This could be something similar as the false prophet seeks to sway men's hearts. They can breathe fire; he can call down fire.
2. It could also be a fire that counterfeits what happened on the Day of Pentecost. You remember that the Holy Spirit fell upon the church and tongues of fire hovered over them. If this false prophet claims to be Jesus he could be instituting a second Pentecost complete with the manifestation of certain supernatural abilities granted to his eager followers.

Revelation 13:14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth - by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

“Deceives” means *to lead astray*. Miracles, signs, and wonders are never a substitute for the clear teaching of the Word of God. If you

are an emotional person who is given to put great emphasis on experience, be careful you are not deceived and led astray by false phenomena done in the name of Jesus.

The people on earth will be led especially “to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.” They won’t simply worship an image to the beast. They will help “make” it.

Think back on the most famous idol to trouble Israel. When they doubted the return of Moses from Mount Sinai they asked Aaron to make them a god to worship. He agreed and asked them to give him their golden earrings for the project. He then fashioned the golden calf for them to worship as their god.

Somehow the people of the world will be asked to participate in the making of this image. They will be called upon to give or donate to the project.

What, exactly, this “image” is we are not told. The word means something more than a mere likeness but beyond that I haven’t a clue.

Revelation 13:15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

Whatever the image is it will portray a likeness of the beast which becomes a symbol of his power and majesty, and of the character of his system.

The image is mentioned three times here in this chapter and again in 14:9 & 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20 and 20:4. We’re not told but it may be that this image will be set up in the holy of holies and thereby constitute the abomination of desolation. It may be the act that defiles the Temple.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,  
2 Thessalonians 2:4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

The false prophet is able to give breath to the image. This gives it the appearance of life. It isn't real life, but only breath, *pneuma*. Since breath or breathing is one of the signs of life, men think the image lives, but John is careful not to say that he gives life to the image. Only God can do that. It is something miraculous, but also deceptive and false.

Then we are told the image of the beast, through this imparted breath, speaks. Some might see this as the result of some product of our modern electronic robot-type of technology. Like the audio-animatronic figures at Disneyland! Or the newer interactive Turtle Talk with Crush.

But this kind of technology would hardly convince people of anything supernatural. This will not be new technology but a new phenomena that men will wonder after.

I saw a depiction of this in one of those Christian end times movies. It was pretty creative (but totally speculative). You put on a virtual reality helmet and somehow the antichrist was projected into your brain. His 'image' was live and interactive. You then had your opportunity to swear allegiance to him and worship him.

Those who refuse to worship the beast are to be killed. Notice that it is the image itself which causes the non-worshippers to be killed. Again, I can't fathom exactly what it means but it will be terrifying.

Many will refuse. The decree to kill them and their actual execution are two different things. It may be that the false prophet will give you several opportunities. When Daniel's three friends, for example, refused to worship the image of King Nebuchadnezzar they were

given another chance before being condemned to death by fiery furnace.

People are already easily led astray by false prophetic claims. Listen to this as I quote Dr. Warren Smith:

Oprah Winfrey will be letting out all the stops on her XM Satellite Radio program this coming year. Beginning January 1, 2008, "Oprah & Friends" will offer a year-long course on the New Age teachings of [curriculum called] *A Course in Miracles*. A lesson a day throughout the year will completely cover the 365 lessons from the *Course in Miracles* "Workbook."

For example, Lesson #29 asks you to go through your day affirming that **"God is in everything I see."** Lesson #61 tells each person to repeat the affirmation **"I am the light of the world."** Lesson #70 teaches the student to say and believe **"My salvation comes from me."**

Imagine all that on steroids as the false prophet calls fire from Heaven, performs miracles, and brings an image breath and speech.

Even in the Great Tribulation it will not be easy to be led astray. The witnesses will be on the earth preaching the truth. The 144,000 Jewish evangelists will be on the earth preaching the truth. In a little while we'll see angels warning people to not worship the antichrist or his image unless they wish to forfeit eternal life.

Why are they led astray? It will cost something to hold to the truth. It will cost them livelihood at first and life at last.

There will come times in each of our lives we must take our stand for the truth. It will be at some cost. Maybe it will be a friendship or other relationship. It might be a job or a career. It could be your life as it is for many of our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world.

Don't fall for dragon-speak. Slay the dragon with your spiritual courage in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

