

# A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

February 21, 2021

Revelation 13

## Revelation 13:11

***"And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like unto a lamb, and he spake as a dragon."***

cf. Revelation 13:1

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## Revelation 13:12

***"And he exerciseth all the authority of the first beast in his sight. And he maketh the earth and them that dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose death-stroke was healed."***

Revelation 13:2

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## Second Beast

- Four characteristics:
  - "Two horns like a lamb" (religious appearance)
  - "Spoke as a dragon" (cf. 13:2, an agent of Satan)
  - "Exercised all the power of the first beast" (backed by political power)
  - "Caused the earth to worship the first beast" (represents the pagans' false worship of the Caesars as gods)
  - Emperor worship was **enforced** by the imperial power of the sea-beast, supported by a delegated commune. "Roman Concilia"

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## Second Beast

- The beast **from the earth**
- The "**land (earth) beast**" – represents **false religion / paganism**.
- Appearance of the **lamb** – but the **voice of the dragon**!
- Speaking lies and falsehoods – **trademarks** of Satan (John 8:44)
- **Mission** – to cause men to worship the beast that came out of the sea! (ROME)
- NOTE: Referred to in other places as "**false prophet**" (16:13; 19:20; cf. Daniel 7:11; Revelation 20:10)

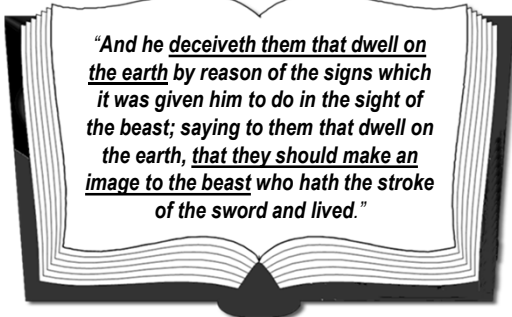
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## Revelation 13:13

***"And he doeth great signs, that he should even make fire to come down out of heaven upon the earth in the sight of men."***

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### Revelation 13:14



*"And he **deceiveth them that dwell on the earth** by reason of the signs which it was given him 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** who hath the stroke of the sword and lived."*

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### Signs of Second Beast

- The role of the false prophet was to **entice men** to worship the first beast.
- Empowered to work "**great wonders**"
- These were really "**lying wonders**" intended to deceive
  - Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12
  - cf. Deuteronomy 13:1-3,5; Galatians 1:8-9; Revelation 13:11-15; 19:20
  - Whatever these were – they were not of the **same quality, character, or aim** as those worked by God's servants. cf. Hebrews 2:3; Mark 16:20; 2 Corinthians 12:12
- **Counterfeit miracles** of false religions.
- Simon knew the **difference!** (Acts 8:5-13)
- Magicians of Pharaoh knew the difference? (Exodus 8:19)

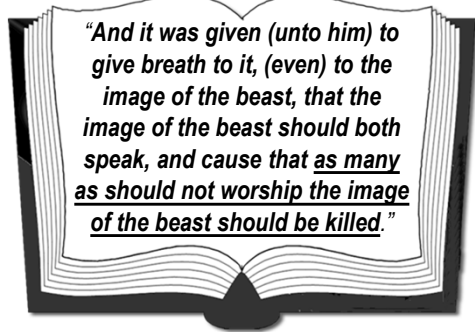
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### Signs of Second Beast

- **Deceives** the earth by means of the signs
- Granted to do so by the **authority of the beast**
- Satan uses all types of **tactics** to deceive the simple-minded.
  - 2 Timothy 3:13; 2 Corinthians 11:14-15
- The second beast instructs the world to make a **statue (image)** to honor the first beast.
- Temples are built to **glorify the Caesars**.
- **Images of Caesars** were made, and Christians were to bow down and confess them as "Lord."
- **NOTE:** Those who refused were threatened with death! (verse 15)

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### Revelation 13:15



*"And it was given (unto him) to give breath to it, (even) to the **image of the beast**, that the **image of the beast** should both speak, and cause that **as many as should not worship the image of the beast** should be killed."*

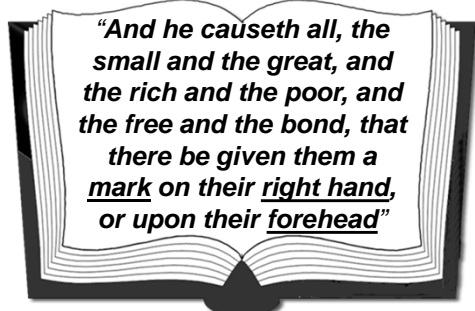
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### Threats of Death

- Persecution and death threats would be used against those who refused to comply with conditions of "**emperor worship**."
- **Function of priests** in these pagan temples, requirements of offering sacrifices on their altars, the spirit of Caesar worship came to life!
- Would the disciples of Christ who, at this time, were undergoing these very acts, not **understand** what John was saying?

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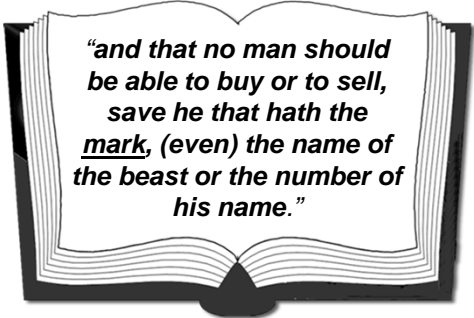
### Revelation 13:16



*"And he causeth all, the **small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond**, that there be given them a **mark on their right hand, or upon their forehead**"*

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### Revelation 13:17



***“and that no man should be able to buy or to sell, save he that hath the mark, (even) the name of the beast or the number of his name.”***

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### Mark Of The Beast

- “Robert Mounce states that ‘**religious tattooing**’ was widespread in the ancient world, and devotees of a particular god were often branded to indicate their loyal devotion ... Others take the passage as an apocalyptic description of **certificates** issued to those who had fulfilled the ceremonial obligations of emperor worship” (Robert Harkrider, *Revelation*, Truth Commentaries, Page 226)
- Slaves and members of the Attis-Cybele cult were sometimes **tattooed**, and it has been conjectured that people in Ephesus were given an **ink mark** on the wrist or forehead that allowed them access to the market. (Edwin Judge, *The Mark Of The Beast*, Revelation 13:16, Page 159)

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### Mark Of The Beast

- “In one such document the person requests certification that they had sacrificed to the gods and tasted sacred things. The **certificate** itself reads: ‘We, the representatives of the Emperor, Serenos and Hermas, have seen you sacrificing’” (Barclay, *Letters*, 29-30, quoted by Ferrell Jenkins, *Studies in the Book of Revelation*, Pages 27-28).
- Others suggest this was **coinage**, which bore the emperor’s likeness long with divine titles. (Caird, Page 173)
- Under Augustus people who received government grain, received a **small tile** (engraved?) which would grant them access to the granary. (Edwin Judge, *The Mark Of The Beast*, Revelation 13:16, Page 159)

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### Mark Of The Beast

*Was this a physical mark?*

- Remember, God has a **seal** (mark) upon those who belong to Him. (Revelation 7:3-4; 9:4; 14:1; 22:4).
- 2 Timothy 2:19, “Howbeit the firm foundation of God standeth, having this **seal**, The Lord knoweth them that are his: and, Let every one that nameth the name of the Lord depart from unrighteousness.”
- Can indicate a moral and spiritual distinction.
  - Exodus 13:9 Passover.
  - Exodus 28:36-38 Priestly garments.
  - 2 Chronicles 26:19-20 Uzziah’s leprosy.

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### The Demands

- The totality of the human society was under threat of persecution if they did not receive the “**mark**.”
- Whatever this mark was, it declared to those who saw it that the one who had the mark was **loyal to the empire and emperor!**
- Those who **worshipped** the beast – **belonged** to the beast.
- Unqualified allegiance to Christ required God’s saints to prefer **suffering martyrdom** over **compromising** their faith! (NOTE: Revelation 12:11)