

THE ANTICHRIST & FALSE PROPHET

Revelation 13

We've mentioned the Antichrist briefly in Rev 6 with the four horsemen, but here in Rev 13, we're shown in more detail how the Antichrist rises to power. It begins with a symbolic beast coming from the sea; a beast who gains its power from the dragon.

“ And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority. I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast;

Rev 13:1-3 ”

RISE AND RESURRECTION

The Antichrist was already a prominent military or political leader at the start of the Tribulation but 3.5 years later, he becomes the most powerful leader in world history. He is depicted by a beast that includes features of a lion, bear and leopard. Individually, these creatures represented separate kingdoms in Daniel 7, but now the Antichrist inherits, and is the embodiment of, all previous Gentile kingdoms.

At the time of mid-Tribulation, the Antichrist will suffer a fatal head wound, possibly at the hands of 3 of the 10 kings. But Satan gives the Antichrist his power, indwells him, resurrecting him from the dead. The beast is now even more powerful than he was before, able to defeat the 3 kings and the 2 witnesses in Rev 11. Through this union, Satan becomes the object of the world's attention and worship, and the Antichrist ascends to become the leader of the world.



NOTE

Remember, during the first half of Tribulation the Antichrist begins his rise as a political and military leader. He is not one of the ten world leaders of that time, since Daniel 7 tells us he will be an eleventh ruler. Instead, he comes into power by negotiating a covenant to permit Israel to return to sacrifice according to Daniel 9. But now at the mid-point, he breaks that covenant, and defiles the temple by setting up his own image there. Both Jesus and Daniel refer to this image as the Abomination of Desolation, and when this is in place, it's the trigger for the remnant to flee to Petra.

THE FALSE PROPHET

The False Prophet arrives on the scene, completing the false trinity. Depicted as a lamb, but with the voice of a dragon, this man speaks for Satan and works with the Antichrist to convince the world to worship Satan.

“ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.

Rev 13:11-14 ”

The message of the False Prophet is reinforced by his ability to rain fire from heaven, but his power is limited to when he is in the physical presence of the Antichrist. An image, or statue, honoring the Antichrist is then erected in the Temple, and through demonic power, is brought to life. It is able to kill those who refuse to worship it.

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

The False Prophet also binds everyone to the Antichrist through economic means, by mandating a mark on each person's forehead or right hand. Without this mark, one cannot buy or sell anything.

Those who receive the mark and worship the beast are now unsavable, and those who refuse the mark will be killed. At mid-Tribulation the world is faced with the choice of worshipping the false trinity, with the promise of temporary security, but the ultimate destination of an eternity in a lake of fire, or follow the true God with the likelihood of being martyred but enter into eternal life.

The mark is represented by the numerical value of the Antichrist's name, which is 666. Numbering a name is a Jewish system performed on a name written in Hebrew. So whatever the Antichrist's name is, it needs to be translated into Hebrew and then converted into its numerical value.