

1. Last week I taught Rev 13:1-6 and when time expired we about to begin the exegesis of Rev 13:7.
2. Before continuing I want to provide “1Jo 1:9 time” as may be necessary.
3. Let’s first take a look at an expanded translation of Rev 13:1-6.

### **Expanded Translation**

**Rev 13:1** And the devil looked out on the swirling mass of humanity; he viewed the confusion of the gentile world as opportunity. And I saw the Antichrist arise out from the confusion of the nations. There was a ten nation federation ruling Europe and from one of these small nations the beast rose to power of not only his small nation but soon he took over two other nations and then finally he became ruler over all ten; each of the ten leaders served as blasphemous leaders in open opposition to God.

**Rev 13:2** John said the Antichrist resembled a leopard, with feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority; all these symbols represent the three major powers of time past: the leopard, Alexander, the bear, the Medo-Persians and the lion, Babylon. These three were predecessors of Rome II to which Satan would give super powers and authority to rule.

**Rev 13:3** The Antichrist sustained a fatal wound, but was miraculously resuscitated. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast as their political and spiritual leader.

**Rev 13:4** Most of the world worshiped Satan because he indwelled the Antichrist and gave authority and power to him; this certainly included military power; those who worshiped the new world leader were absolutely devoted and impressed; they asked, "Who is like the Antichrist? Who can make war against him?"

**Rev 13:5** The Antichrist was given great wisdom to blaspheme God and His Word; he exercised his authority during the last forty-two months of the Tribulation.

**Rev 13:6** Both the Antichrist and the False Prophet took great pleasure in blaspheming God. The two slander His name and the Third Heaven and all those who live there.

4. Now let’s see what we can learn from Rev 13:7.

KJV

Rev 13:7 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.

NIV

Rev 13:7 He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.

Principles:

1. As is anticipated in Dan 7:23, where the beast devours "the whole earth," the worldwide extent of his power would certainly seem to be indicated.

Dan 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

2. The expression "it was given to him" refers to the satanic origin of his power.

2.1 Acting as Satan's tool, the beast is able to wage war against the saints throughout the entire globe and to overcome many, but some number of believers will see through his worldwide plot and as a result be martyred. Dan 9:27; 12:10 and Rev 7:9-14.

Dan 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Dan 12:10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

Rev 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Rev 7:10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Rev 7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

Rev 7:12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Rev 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

Rev 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

3. It is in the will of God for many believers (both Jews and Gentiles) to perish as martyrs, it is also in that same will of God for others to survive; this in spite of all the Antichrist can do.

4. The ultimate in worldwide authority is indicated in verse seven, in that he was "given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation."

5. The dream of countless rulers in the past of conquering the entire world is here finally achieved by this last Gentile ruler.

6. The universal authority of the beast over the entire earth is stated specifically in the latter part of verse seven and power was given him over all kindred, and tongues, and nations.

6.1 The word peoples should be inserted after the word kindred as in the best texts, making the verse read "power was given him over all kindreds, peoples, and tongues, and nations."

7. Additionally, since the nouns are properly singular, the clause is better rendered "and authority was given to him over every tribe and people and tongue and nation."

8. Such authority as we have seen was anticipated by Daniel (Dan. 7:23) where it is stated that the fourth beast "shall devour the whole earth, and tread it down, and break it in pieces"; additionally, its uniqueness was anticipated by Daniel in the phrase "which shall be diverse from all kingdoms."

Dan 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

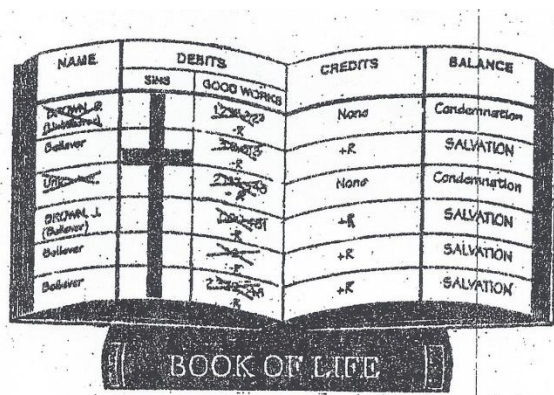
9. The dream of world conquest achieved in part by the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian, and Roman empires is now for the first time realized completely.

9.1 It is the Satanic counterfeit of Christ's Millennial reign and is permitted by God in a final display of the evil of Satan and mankind's willing wickedness.

10. The time of this universal sway as earlier noted is clearly indicated in Rev 13:5; it is forty-two months in duration, namely the last three and one-half years preceding the return of Christ.

Rev 13:5 The Antichrist was given great wisdom to blaspheme God and His Word; he exercised his authority for forty-two months.

11. By way of preview but pertinent: in verse 8 John speaks of a book called "The Book of Life"



12. In this book is written the names of every person who ever lived on the face of the earth. We will study more about the Book of Life when we get to Rev 13:8.

NIV

Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--**all whose names have not been written in the book of life** belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

13. Before we move to verse eight, let's see how Rev 13:7 looks by way of expanded translation:

**Expanded Translation**

**Rev 13:7 The Antichrist in the last half of the Tribulation was given by Satan the power to make war against the believers of the Tribulation and to conquer them; all of this of course is done under the permissive will of God. And he was given authority over all the people of the world.**

14. Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 13:8.

KJV

Rev 13:8 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.

NIV

Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast -- all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

1. When a person rejects Jesus Christ as Savior, and God knows that he will never change his mind, that name is blotted out of the Book of Life. All unbelievers will from what we have in Rev 13:8, worship the Antichrist. Believers, though suffering will not worship the Beast.

2. Be aware all peoples have been placed in their proper dispensation; and this is done only after the Omniscience of God has seen and the Sovereignty of God has declared. It follows therefore that the Tribulation is populated with some of God's finest just as was the case during the first and second centuries of the Age of the Church.

3. Paul, the apostle, who before was called Saul, after his great travail and unspeakable labors in promoting the Gospel of Christ, suffered also in this first persecution under Nero ... soldiers came and led him out of the city to the place of execution, where he, after his prayers ... "gave his neck to the sword."

4. Satan will be so furious with those whose names are still in the Book of Life that he will stimulate the Antichrist to wage a war of attrition on them.

5. By one means or another, all over the world, believers will have to suffer or die for their faith (verse 10).

5.1 Many will submit willingly to death, just like the thousands of martyrs before them.

6. All of this suffering will take place throughout the Tribulation but in varying degrees and certainly more severe in the last three and one-half years—the Great Tribulation. Suffering in time is nothing new.

7. Let's look at what history teaches of the destiny of our early Apostles.

Stephen

Stephen suffered ... death was occasioned by the faithful manner in which he preached the Gospel ... they cast him out of the city and stoned him to death. The time when he suffered is generally supposed to have been at the Passover ... We are ... told by St. Luke, that "there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem;" and that "they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles." About two thousand Christians ... suffered martyrdom during the "persecution that arose about Stephen."

## James the Great

The next martyr we meet ... according to St. Luke, in ... Acts, was James the son of Zebedee, the elder brother of John ... It was not until ten years after the death of Stephen that the second martyrdom took place; for no sooner had Herod Agrippa been appointed governor of Judea ... he raised a sharp persecution against the Christians ...

## Phillip

Was born at Bethsaida, in Galilee and was first called by the name of "disciple." He labored diligently in Upper Asia, and suffered martyrdom at Heliopolis, in Phrygia. He was scourged, thrown into prison, and afterwards crucified, A.D. 54.

## Matthew

Whose occupation was that of a toll-gatherer, was born at Nazareth. He wrote his gospel in Hebrew, which was afterwards translated into Greek by James the Less. The scene of his labors was Parthia, and Ethiopia, in which latter country he suffered martyrdom, being slain with a halberd in the city of Nadabah, A. D. 60.

## James the Less

Is supposed by some to have been the brother of our Lord, by a former wife of Joseph. This is very doubtful, and accords too much with the Catholic superstition, that Mary never had any other children except our Savior... At the age of ninety-four he was beaten and stoned by the Jews; and finally had his brains dashed out with a ... club.

## Andrew

Was the brother of Peter. He preached the gospel to many Asiatic nations; but on his arrival at Edessa (the former capital of Macedonia [Greece]) he was taken and crucified on a cross, the two ends of which were fixed transversely in the ground. Hence the derivation of the term, St. Andrew's Cross.

## Mark

Was born of Jewish parents of the tribe of Levi. He is supposed to have been converted to Christianity by Peter, whom he served as an amanuensis, and under whose inspection he wrote his Gospel in the Greek language. Mark was dragged to pieces by the people of Alexandria, at the great solemnity of Serapis their idol, ending his life under their merciless hands.

## Peter

Among many other saints, the ... apostle Peter was condemned to death, and crucified ... at Rome ... Nero sought the matter against Peter ... Jerome said that he was crucified up-sidedown, because he was (he said) unworthy to be crucified after the same form and manner as the Lord was.

## Paul

Paul, the apostle, who before was called Saul, after his great travail and unspeakable labors in promoting the Gospel of Christ, suffered also in this first persecution under Nero... soldiers came and led him out of the city to the place of execution, where he, after his prayers ... gave his neck to the sword.

## Jude

The brother of James, was commonly called Thaddaeus. He was crucified at Edessa, A.D. 72.

## Bartholomew

Preached in several countries, and having translated the Gospel of Matthew into the language of India, he propagated it in that country. He was at length cruelly beaten and then crucified by the impatient idolaters.

## Thomas

Called Didymus, preached the Gospel in Parthia and India, where exciting the rage of the pagan priests, he was martyred by being thrust through with a spear. Many will not resist, but will submit willingly to death, just like the thousands of martyrs before them.

8. It is apparent that as the period moves on to its end a terrible world war is under way and will continue until the time of the return of Christ.

9. This war seems to be a rebellion against the universal sway of the Antichrist and comes at the very end of the tribulation time.

10. A universal kingdom and a world war could not coexist, since one is the contradiction of the other; thus we have a reference to the Great Tribulation.

10.1 The alternative view of J. B. Smith, that all passages speaking of conflicts between the nations must precede the time of tribulation, that is, refer to the first half of the seven-year period.

10.2 Walvoord has aptly said of Smith's position "it is without proper justification. This would put the natural development of the end of the age in an unwarranted stricture."

11. Now for an expanded translation of Rev 13:8.

### **Expanded Translation**

**Rev 13:8 The nations of the world and all the unbelieving citizens therein could be seen worshiping the Antichrist as God--that is to say all those whose names had not been redacted from the book of life belonging to the Lamb; the Lamb being the Lord Jesus Christ Who was slain in eternity past before time was.**

12. Now let's see what we can glean from Rev 13:9.

KJV

Rev 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

NIV

Rev 13:9 He who has an ear, let him hear.

Principles:

1. Here is the command for the patience and the faith of the saints.

1.1 It is clear from verse eight that the universal worship of the beast will achieve at long last the characteristics of a world religion in that it will be ecumenical and as progressives demand it will be inclusive of "all faiths."

2. The desire to have all Christian churches unite, or to even go one step further and unite all religions of the world, has for years been advanced as a desired goal.

2.1 Because of the indwelling and restraining ministry of God the Holy Spirit this effort though repeatedly attempted will not be achieved prior to the end of the church age.

2.2 There is today as you can read in any newspaper, certainly to include the Austin American Statesmen, an impetus to "be inclusive. "All faiths day" in this city is a big deal.

2.2.1 A large front page color picture was recently published in our paper showing church leaders from the Hindu, Bahai, Islam, Buddhist, Catholic, Methodist and Baptist faiths attending a prayer session together.



2.3 There are those pushing for one world, one faith, tolerance and diversity where all faiths love and embrace one another as those ultimately going to the same place in the hereafter.

2.4 This is Satans "malarkey" right out of the pit of hell.

3. However, in the great tribulation as here described, a world religion will be advanced which will have as its focal point the worship of a man chosen and empowered by Satan himself.

4. In that day, true believers in Christ will be separated from this world religion and will be the objects of its fearful persecution.

5. From a Biblical point of view, the concept of a world religion is anathema.

6. The invitation "If any man have an ear, let him hear" emphasizes the preceding as a matter of great moment to which all should give attention.

7. Now for an expanded translation of verse nine.

### **Expanded Translation**

**Rev 13:9 If you have a lick of sense you will pay attention to what is here being said.**

8. Now let's see what we can learn from verse ten.

KJV

Rev 13:10 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.

NIV

Rev 13:10 If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

1. This verse expresses the certainty of that which will take place in the Tribulation and the need for all to listen to God's warning.

2. In a phrase, for the unbeliever, it is the law of divine retribution.

3. Here, as in the Gospels, you can find similar expressions of urgency and exhortation.

Mat 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

Mat 13:42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Mat 13:43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Mar 7:15 There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.

Mar 7:16 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

Luk 14:34 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned?

Luk 14:35 It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

4. A close parallel as well as a contrast is also observable between this invitation and the invitation to the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3 where the exhortation is to "hear what the Spirit says unto the churches."

Rev 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Rev 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Rev 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Rev 2:29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Rev 3:6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Rev 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Rev 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

5. The omission of the phrase "unto the churches" in Rev 13:9 is most significant and tends to support the teaching that the church, the body of Christ, has previously been raptured.

Rev 13:9 He who has an ear, let him hear.

6. The exhortation in our verse is to anyone who will listen; the message is not addressed only to the church as such but to the entire world; the church recall is in heaven during the seven years of the Tribulation.

7. Reinforcing the exhortation is the warning of the ultimate sovereign justice of God which will be brought to bear upon this scene of wickedness.

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