

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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Mission Statement

This study of the Book of Revelation gives special attention to the testimony it provides concerning our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10; cp. 1:2), leading us to worship and serve Him in everything.

- I.** What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II.** What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- III.** What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).
 - A.** The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)
 - B.** The Seven Trumpets (8:2–11:19)
 - C.** The Unholy Trinity (12:1–14:20)
 1. The Two Signs in the Heavens (12:1–17)
 2. The Two Beasts on the Earth (13:1–18)
 - a. The First Beast: The Second Person of the Unholy Trinity (13:1–10)

Revealed after Satan is cast out of heaven. These two beasts act as the main instruments of his fury.
 - The Identity of the First Beast (13:1–3)
 - ✓ His Association with the Dragon (v. 1)
 - ▶ “And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore” = the dragon calls the beast.
 - ▶ 10 horns, 7 heads, 10 diadems (on the horns; cp. 12:3) = the beast controls a coalition of 10 kingdoms given to him by the dragon.
 - ✓ His Origin (v. 1): “coming up out of the sea” = out of the nations.
 - ✓ His Character (vv. 1, 2)
 - ▶ “beast” = a wild or venomous beast (cp. Acts 28:4)—different word than “living creature” (4:6).
 - ▶ “blasphemous names” = attributing the works of God to Satan.
 - ▶ “like a leopard . . . bear . . . lion” = incorporates elements of Greek, Persian, and Babylonian empires (cp. Dan 7:4–6).
 - ▶ Receives his power, throne, and authority from the dragon (cp. Luke 4:5–7).
 - ✓ His Imitation (v. 3)
 - ▶ Mortally wounded but healed (cp. 5:6; 17:8) = counterfeit resurrection.
 - (1) King of the north attacks Israel (Ezek 38–39).
 - (2) Man of Sin leaves Babylon to protect Israel (covenant; Dan 9:27) and the king of the north kills him (Rev 13:3).
 - (3) King of the north goes on to spoil Egypt (Dan 11:42–43).
 - (4) Satan resuscitates the Man of Sin (Rev 13:3).
 - (5) King of the north hears the news in Egypt (Dan 11:44).
 - (6) King of the north returns to Israel and God destroys him (Dan 11:45; Isa 31:8; Ezek 39:3–4).
 - (7) Man of Sin claims the victory and sets himself up as God in the Temple at Jerusalem to establish a counterfeit Kingdom (2 Thess 2:4).

Barrick, **The Testimony of Jesus in the Book of Revelation**

- The Idolatry of the First Beast (13:4–5)
 - ✓ The world worships the dragon as the head of the unholy trinity (v. 4a; cp. v. 8; Matt 4:8–10).
 - ✓ The world worships the beast, because of his dominant power (v. 4b; cf. 6:2).
 - ✓ The beast’s blasphemy consists in claiming the works and attributes of God (v. 5).
 - ✓ 42 months (the last 3-1/2 years of the Tribulation) comprise the period of idolatry.
- The Ideology of the First Beast (13:6–10)
 - ✓ *In religion* he is anti-God, anti-believers (Israel), and anti-Christ (vv. 6–7a).
 - ✓ *In government* he is bent on conquest and oppression (v. 7b).
 - ✓ True believers refuse to worship the beast (vv. 8–10).
 - ▶ Those who oppose him are written in the Lamb’s book of life (v. 8).
 - ▶ Those who oppose him listen to the words of God (v. 9).
 - ▶ Those who oppose him wait for God to destroy him (v. 10; 19:20).
- b. The Second Beast: The Third Person of the Unholy Trinity (13:11–18)
 - The Description of the Second Beast (13:11–12)
 - ✓ His Origin: “out of the earth” (v. 11a) = out of Israel?
 - ✓ His Character: counterfeit of Christ (like a lamb) and emissary of the dragon (v. 11b), who causes the world to worship the first beast (v. 12)
 - The Deception of the Second Beast (13:13–15)
 - ✓ By counterfeit signs to cause the world to worship the first beast.
 - ✓ By making and bringing to life an image of the first beast (cf. 14:9–11; 20:4).
 - ▶ Cp. Daniel 3.
 - The Demarcation of the Second Beast (13:16–18)
 - ✓ People will receive a mark on the forehead or the right hand, without which they will starve (vv. 16–17).
 - ✓ The number of the name is “666” (v. 18).
 - ▶ The number is of man because both beasts are human.

Questions for Discussion

- a. How does the Bible identify the first beast in other passages?
- b. How is the second beast like the Holy Spirit?

Implications Regarding Jesus Christ [Some are the opposite of the Man of Sin.]

- ▶ Jesus came as a human being.
- ▶ Jesus performed the will of the Father.
- ▶ Jesus did not blaspheme—as God, He did the works of God.
- ▶ Jesus was given all authority in heaven and on earth.
- ▶ Jesus is worthy of worship.
- ▶ Jesus really did rise from the dead at His resurrection.
- ▶ Jesus gives life.
- ▶ Jesus did not perform signs to deceive.
- ▶ The Holy Spirit causes people to worship Christ and the Father.