**Sermon Notes November 13, 2022**

**Series**: Revelation

**Sermon**: The Persecution Continues

**Scripture**: Revelation 13:9-12, 17:16, 19:20, Matthew 24:24-25, 25:11-13, 1 John 2:22-23, 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12

**Summary**: This chapter contains four of the most iconic concepts contained in Revelation. The two "beasts" described here are the figures often referred to as the Antichrist and the False Prophet. The symbol mandated for all followers of Antichrist, administered by the False Prophet, is the mark of the beast, which is further related to the number 666.

**Read**: Revelation 13:9-12

It’s critical that we understand how easy it will be for Satan to control those who are not following God. They’ll be looking for the same thing we are… someone to listen, guide, and love us.

So, let’s look today, at how this world dominator will control his subjects, and prayerfully… we’ll gain insight as to what the role of the church is today.?

1. **The Persecution Continues**
	1. Revelation 13:9-10
		1. Anyone who has an ear is instructed to listen to God’s words.
		2. God is continually speaking to us.
		3. God allows this persecution to expose those who are working against his plan,
2. **The False Prophet**
	1. Revelation 13:11-12
		1. This third beast is the final puzzle piece in Satan’s “unholy trinity”.
		2. He appears in a similar guise to confuse people into linking himself to Jesus.
		3. The lamb is representative of sacrifice in the bible.
	2. Two horns
		1. Represent two dissimilar religious systems unified by the false profit.
		2. Evidence suggest that this may be the adulterous church spoken of in Revelation chapter 2 and 3, primarily the churches of Laodicea, Sardis, and Thyatira.
		3. May be unified by remnants of Islam.
			1. Catholicism already accepts Muslims and Jews as having salvation, without having to believe Jesus died on the Cross, or that He is the Son of God.
			2. Islam is a major force on the scene and must be reduced for the Jewish Temple to be rebuilt at start of the 7-year tribulation period.
				1. The Dome of the Rock must be destroyed which is either the cause or the conclusion of a war between Islam and Israel.
				2. Incidentally, a defeated Islam will be ripe for a new religious system.
			3. With the Rapture of the Church, those left behind will look to unify a world filled with war and chaos
				1. We see the results from the Islamic war against Israel, (***Ezekiel 38-39***), then the Rapture and the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple. Jesus exemplifies his church
				2. Review Jesus’ response to the 5 virgins who missed the coming of the bridegroom.

***Matthew 25:11-13***, – Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12 But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

* + - 1. Lastly, the adulterous church is destroyed in the 2nd half of the tribulation period as this unified faith is turned away from the adulterous women and toward the Beast. (***Revelation 17:16***)
	1. The new world religion
		1. The source will be Satan.
		2. He desires to destroy those created in the image of God.
		3. Biblical Christianity is exclusive; there is no room for a competing “Jesus¨.
		4. ***1 John 2:22-23***, – Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.
		5. If you deny Jesus, he will deny you before the Father.
		6. The Antichrist will control everything and will demand complete submission.

**Application / Next Steps**

Do you believe God’s Word or the lies coming from the world?

It’s easy, sitting in church on Sunday to convince yourself and answer properly, but what about way down deep inside? What about in those times of testing that you face outside of the church?

The False prophet has one goal… for us to accept the deification of the Beast whose deadly wound was healed. The death and resurrection of the Beast at the Mid-point of the Tribulation will be in conjunction with the casting out of Satan from Heaven. His death and resurrection will be highlighted as evidence for the Beast being God on Earth. In the same that the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus was evidence of his being the Son of God, Satan will counterfeit the resurrection.

Somehow, the Antichrist will receive a mortal wound, maybe an assassination attempt that Satan has ordained… nut he will be resurrected fully as Satan himself, demanding worship. The Antichrist will be a very charismatic, extremely popular, probably attractive man that people will naturally want to follow and be around. But he will be influenced and controlled by Satan. When he dies and is resurrected… he will be fully Satan, demanding worship from this world.

Will you believe the lie? Or will you listen now and get your life right with God? Right now, might be the only chance you get to say yes to Christ. If you don’t know Him, you can choose to believe that he can do what he said he can do. And… if you already know Jesus… pray for a renewal of your spirit. Asking Him to draw you closer.