

THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH
(Revelation 13:11-18)

- I. His DECEPTIVE APPEARANCE (Rev. 13:11)
 - A. Seems HARMLESS: looks like a LAMB
 - 1. TEN HORNS of the first beast: TERRITORY
 - 2. TWO HORNS of the second beast: TESTIMONY
 - B. Speaks HERESIES: speaks like the DRAGON
 - 1. Propagates the LIE (2 Thess. 2:11-12)
 - 2. Promotes the LIAR (John 8:44-45)
- II. His DYNAMIC APPEAL (Rev. 13:12)
 - A. Demonstrates great POWER
 - 1. Exercises the AUTHORITY of the first beast
 - 2. Acts as the AMBASSADOR of the first beast
 - B. Demonstrates great PERSUASION
 - 1. Unifies world RELIGIONS (cf. Rev. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10)
 - 2. Deifies world RULER
- III. His DEADLY APPROACH (Rev. 13:13-18)
 - A. BLINDS mankind (13:13-15)
 - 1. Uses signs from HEAVEN: FIRE from the sky
 - a. Like ELIJAH (2 Kings 1:10-12)
 - b. Like at PENTECOST (Acts 2:3)
 - c. Like the TWO WITNESSES (Rev. 11:5)
 - 2. Uses signs from HELL: LIFE for the image

- a. Counterfeit MIRACLES
 - b. Corrupt MESSAGE
- B. BINDS mankind (13:16-18)
 - 1. CLEVERLY, using a MARK for identification
 - a. Some are CONVINCED
 - b. Some are CARELESS
 - c. Some are COWARDLY/CRAVEN
 - 2. COMPLETELY, making it a MANDATE for commerce
 - a. Its EXTENT is WORLDWIDE
 - b. Its EXECUTION will require a MARK with the Beast's NAME and NUMBER
 - c. Its EXCEPTION in the ENLIGHTENED remnant

IV. Lessons from Revelation 13 (adapted from William Newell, pp. 201-202)

- A. Concerning SATAN
 - 1. His intense HATRED toward God and His saints
 - 2. His great FURY at being cast from heaven to earth
 - 3. His blasphemous AMBITION to be worshiped as God
 - 4. His convincing COPY/COUNTERFEIT of God's plan
- B. Concerning MAN
 - 1. Willingness to lose his own SOUL to gain the whole WORLD
 - 2. Native desire since the fall to "be as GODS"
 - 3. Epitome of refusal to retain God in his KNOWLEDGE and turning to an image of corruptible MAN (Rom. 1)
 - 4. Outcome of worldwide "FREE TRADE"
 - 5. Outworking of "FREE WILL"
- C. Concerning GOD
 - 1. His inescapable JUSTICE toward rebellious creation
 - 2. His inexorable WRATH in final judgment
 - 3. His infinite GRACE in preserving His people