

PASTOR: Kip McCormick

DATE: October 20, 2024

SERIES: Rev'd Up

SERMON: THE DESTRUCTIVE DUO: The Anti-Christ & False Prophet

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Revelation 13:1-18 (NASB)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE / FURTHER READING: Revelation 11:7; 17:8; 1 John 2:18 (NKJV); 2 Thessalonians 2:3; Zechariah 11:15-17; Daniel 7; Daniel 11:36-45; Matthew 4:8-10; Revelation 16:13; 19:20; 20:10

MESSAGE TAKEAWAY Deception is truth mixed with lies. Don't be duped, be wise.

SUPPORTING THOUGHTS:

- The Unholy Trinity: The Dragon (Satan), the Beast from the Sea (the Anti-Christ, a world dictator) and the Beast from the Earth (False Prophet, religious leader of a one-world religion)
- The Destructive Duo will work to advance Satan's agenda in the last days.
- The "beast of the sea" is the Anti-Christ.
- In the Bible, beasts are symbols of evil power and cruelty.
- The fulfillment of prophecies in the past validates the fulfillment of prophecies in the future.
- Horns represent power. Heads represent leadership, and crowns represent authority.
- 5 Characteristics of the Anti-Christ:
 1. Speaks blasphemies against God
 2. He'll be the dictator of the world, which will be split into 10 territories/kingdoms
 3. He'll maintain power until Christ's victory on His return.
 4. He'll have no regard for traditional religions.
 5. He'll have a strong, military backing.
- The final world empire will be rooted in previous empires that are united in their power and their proclivity to do evil.
- Satan has always wanted to be worshiped.



(OVER)

(SUPPORTING THOUGHTS CONTINUED)

- Book of Life: A symbol of our permanent security with Christ, a set of names of those who will live with God forever.
- The “beast from the earth” is the False Prophet. (Rev. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10).
- False Prophet: “Character” of a lamb but the voice of Satan.
- Satan will marry the economy with religion through the mark of the beast.
- Receiving the mark of the beast will prove your allegiance to the Anti-Christ. Refusing it demonstrates your faith in Jesus.
- “This calls for wisdom.”
- Just as devotees of pagan religions received a branding/tattoo of ownership in ancient times; just as slaves were branded by their masters; just as soldiers were branded by their leaders, so the Anti-Christ’s emblem will be placed on people who worship him.
- Don’t try to figure out “666.”
- When you know what “right” looks like you can easily spot a counterfeit.

CHALLENGE: Study and Apply.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What portion of today’s teaching challenged you?
- What did today’s teaching show you about Satan’s influence in the world?
- Discuss the Beast of the Sea (the Anti-Christ). How will people be able to recognize him?
- Discuss the Beast of the Earth (the False Prophet). How will people be able to recognize him?
- How will this destructive duo deceive and destroy?
- Why do you think God allows the “unholy trinity” to have specific powers?
- How can we guard ourselves against deceptive teachings and misleading theories?
- Why did Kip emphasize that we won’t figure out the meaning of 666 on this side of eternity? Do you agree? Disagree? Why?
- Kip said that this mark will marry the religious AND economic system of the world. Why is that important? What are the dangers of focusing on one or the other (religious or economic) system and not both?
- How can believers evangelize with truth and love while standing firm in convictions?
- How can you prepare yourself for increased persecution of the Christian faith?

Sources: Sources: **Jason Dexter** (Study and Obey on-line Bible Study, Revelation, with excellent discussion questions and commentary); **Eliyahu Lizorkin-Eyzenberg**, Israel Bible Center (multiple books and commentaries); **Gotquestions.org**; **Gary Hamrick** (Cornerstone Chapel, Revelation Series); **Michael Heiser** (Naked Bible Podcast; *Unseen Realm* and multiple books); **Life Application Study Bible** Commentary, Revelation; **John MacArthur** (multiple books, sermons, study bible; Grace to You Ministries); **Ron Rhodes** (Multiple Sources on Eschatology; The End of Times Chronological Order Workbook); **Chuck Swindoll** (New Testament Commentary – Revelation); **Through the Word Bible App**; **Warren Wiersbe** (The Wiersbe Commentary, New Testament) **YouVersion Bible App**.

(END)