Beast and False prophet; The 144,000; Part 1

By Charles Feinberg

This is the fifth in a series on the book of the revelation by Dr. Charles Lee Feinberg, dean of Talbot theological seminary in La Mirada, California. We come now to the 13th chapter of the book of the revelation and we entitle it the roman beast and the antichrist. The apostle John in this chapter continues his portrayal of the chief actors, the chief participants in the end time. And he adds two more to the ones that we have already seen in chapter 12. Chapter 12 it was the woman and the man child, the dragon Michael and his angels, and the devil and his angels. A study of Daniel chapter 7, 9, and 11 is absolutely essential to the understanding of this very important chapter of revelation. Therefore we have made tapes on the book of Daniel. We have 6 tapes on that wonderful book as well. And we do well to study that as the background for the book of the revelation.

With the teaching of Daniel in mind then, the additional truth of here given will be readily understood. The chapter has a twofold division. The first 10 verses deal with the beast. Verses 11-18 deal with the antichrist. There’s a simple enough division outline of the chapter. 1-10 the beast; 11-18 the antichrist. And I stood upon the sand of the sea says John and saw a beast rise up out of the sea having 7 heads and 10 horns and upon his horns 10 crowns and upon his heads the name of blasphemy and the beast which I saw was like a leopard and his feet were like the feet of a bear and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and throne and great authority. and I saw one of his heads as though it were wounded to death and his deadly
wound was healed and all the world wondered after the beast and they worshipped the dragon who gave power unto the beast and they worshipped the beast saying who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him? And it was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies and power was given unto him to continue 40 and 2 months. And he opened his mouth and blasphemy against God to blaspheme his name and his tabernacle and then to dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. Power was given him over all kindred and tongues and nations 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. If any man have an ear let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity he that killeth with a sword must be killed with a sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

In chapter 13 we have a grouping of 3 evil sinister characters. Here we see the chief wicked instruments of Satan. The world is unquestionably looking for a great political leader, a leader who will speak the last word in governmental matters. In matters of rule in matters of administration. The world is looking for a great civil, political, governmental leader. That’s number 1. The world is also looking for a great religious leader. One who will speak the last word in matters of the spiritual, matters that concern religious faith and belief. The world is going to find her unfortunate desire fulfilled in the beast or it is a normal to want one to speak the last word in spiritual matters if we find it in Christ, but the world is going to find her desire fulfilled in the beast, the roman beast and the antichrist.
We said that 2 more participants would be found in chapter 12. We’ve also mentioned three evil sinister characters. Well the third sinister character beside the beast and the antichrist is Satan himself. Someone has said that these might be called the evil trinity. I don’t like to use the word trinity for any satanic grouping. Call them trio or the gruesome threesome but don’t call them trinity. That is reserved for the godhead. So the world is going to find her desire fulfilled in both the beast and the antichrist. you will notice that there is a he in verse 1 in some of the versions instead of I stood upon the sand of the sea, the dragon that was spoken of in chapter 12 is meant here he standing upon the sand of the sea. Sand of the sea has reference to multitudes of people in tumult, in turmoil, in unrest. psalm 2:1 shows that why do the people [inaudible] why do the nations rage in the people imagine a [inaudible] thing in revelation the same book the 17th chapter in the 15th verse gives us God's own explanation and definitions what meant by the waters of the sea, and the waters of the sea are a wonderful portrayal of the nations: instability, force, fluidity, lack of fixedness.

Now the beast that we see coming up out of the sea is the revived Roman Empire. We know Rome fell in its western division in 476 AD and up to this hour the Roman Empire has ceased to exist. But it will exist again in the future as we see here in verse 1. This beast has 10 horns and 7 heads. The 10 horns represent 10 kings as stated in just so many words in revelation 17:12. 10 kingdoms are going to arise in Western Europe. The old Roman Empire never existed in this form. It will be an attempt for a consolidated centralized power, a counterfeit regime, if you will, counterfeiting the glorious universal kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one ruler over the federated kingdoms is none other than the little horn of Daniel 7. It's the one of Daniel 9:27 as
well. The prince of the people that shall come, the ones that destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD. The best of revelation 13:1-10 is the little horn of Daniel 7:17-23 who comes out of the last great world empire Rome.

This first beast then is from a governmental area. The first beast you remember was Babylon in Daniel 7, the second was mitopersia, then the third was Greece, the fourth Rome. this little horn comes out of Rome in the roman empire is in Daniel 7 in a manner and in a fashion as it never existed politically and governmentally before. It has names of blasphemy, that's against God, against his truth, as it's so evident even today in despotic countries. Notice the lampooning in the cartooning of God that we see in godless countries in Europe and even some of it in our land sad to say seeking to destroy God in heaven just as they've been seeking to destroy economic systems on earth. These godless ones are forerunners of this awful beast that has names of blasphemy. A beast openly defies God; he resorts to brute force for all of his measures. He looks like a leopard, a bear, and a lion. The revived Roman Empire will be an amalgamation of the preceding world empires. It was always the boast of the roman powers that they could incorporate the features of preceding empires.

But notice whence comes the power? The dragon gave him his power. This takes place after Satan is expelled from heaven. The beast comes from the abyss. You see the beast of this chapter are men but they have a beast like character. They best deal in character, they best deal in action. We read in verse 3 that one of the heads of this beast had been smitten as though unto death and his death stroke was healed. The whole world the whole earth didn’t say well this is just a
common ordinary occurrence and we expected it all the time. Not a bit of it. The whole earth wondered after the beast. They did not expect it but it happened anyhow. One of these heads suffered political death and resurrection. His federated empire is going to see a revival after its political death and that’s in the midst of Daniel’s 70th week. This is not referring as some have made it to refer to Judas Iscariot revile. He is not here at all. He was never the head of a government. This is talking about governmental matters. This is talking about the revived Roman Empire. In the midst of Daniel 70th week this is going to be an unparalleled sight in the history of the world.

Wont the world commentators, news media, radio, television, and all of that coming day aren't they going to be taken off guard. An unparalleled sight in the history of the world. men laughed at this prediction about a revival of the roman empire when godly bible students for years set it forth and yet what do we see but the for gleams of it in that European economic community or what’s more popularly called the European common market. The beast influence as noted here will extend to the whole world. They worshipped the dragon. Here Satan is usurping God's place again. This is the intentional goal of all ungodly Satan directed men. Men worship the power at the disposal of the beast in Europe and in America even today, we see devil worship on the rise. not long ago in one of the papers from san Francisco, it showed a man dressed in black and just as the cartoons of Satan have it, and he was the minister of the synagogue or of the church or the congregation they probably would call it of Satan. And there he was performing hideous ceremony of marriage with nudes. In Europe and in America devil worship is on the increase. There is here a claim to omnipotence in revelation 13 as seen in the 2 insolent and boastful
questions who is like the beast, who is able to make war with him? Speaking then of first of all his person, then his power. What a claim there is here. To omnipotence.

What are those questions? Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him? Those questions are going to be answered. They’re going to be answered to the satisfaction of God in the 19th chapter of this book. there was given [inaudible] speaking great things and blasphemy and has authority to continue 42 months. again and again we have it stated that it was given to him. there was given to him. all is there under the permissive direction of God. just as God permitted Satan to have job under his power in the centuries long ago. this is delegated, permissive power, mind you, under the direction of God. it'll be the last 42 months the duration of this wicked satanic crisis. he overcomes the saints. it is given unto him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. as with the saints of revelation 11:7-8 finally God allows them to be overcome. the beast holds sway over others besides Israel as we see here in verse 7. it's over every tribe people tongue and nation. verse 8 reveals that all the dwell on the earth those that are earth settlers shall worship him specifically everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the lamb that was slain. Satan will have power over those that dwell on the earth. The rejecters of God and of Christ and of the holy calling.

Retributive justice is going to be experienced in that day on those that kill with the sword are going to be killed with the sword themselves. That’s retaliation in kind. God's tribulation of saints in the meantime must endure patiently. Here we have the patience and the faith of the saints. Here will be an opportunity for the exercise of them. Here will be the place where there
will be ample opportunity for them to manifest both patience and faith and you'd remember
patience and faith were in the wonderful three graces mentioned by Paul in his first letter to the
Thessalonians. I know your work of faith, your labor of labor, and your patience, your endurance
of hope, your steadfastness of hope.

Now the first 10 verses we've seen refer to a political leader the roman beast, the head of the
revived Roman Empire. Now we come to verses 11-18 and I believe we not have a picture of the
antichrist, and I reserve antichrist the word only found in johns writings, in his epistles, and here
in the revelation. The truth of this [inaudible] even in john 5 where we read. I have come in my
father’s name another will come in his own name and in him you will believe. It’s found in
Zechariah 11. The false or foolish shepherd but here we have a picture of the antichrist who
though he is prophesied of in other areas he is mentioned in johns writings.

First beast is a political leader let me repeat. He is from among the nations of the earth. The
second is areligious leader. He is from among the people of the earth of Israel as we can see of
his origin of the earth and form the teaching of the 1th chapter of Daniel verses 36-45. He’s a
religious leader from Israel. The antichrist is against Christ. He wants to take the place of Christ.
He would come in the room in the stead of Christ. Both the beast and the antichrist. These two
beasts will suffer the same doom. We find it in revelation 19:20. They will both find their end,
their doom, their judgement, the visitation of god upon them in the lake of fire. Verses 11-18 the
beast out of the land and behold another beast coming up out of the earth, the first one came up
out of the sea. this one out of the earth and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke like a
dragon, and he exercises all power of the first beast before him and he causes the earth and them who dwell on it to worship the first beast whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on earth in the sight of man. and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the men’s of those miracles which eh had power to do in the sight of the beast saying to them that dwell on the earth that they should make an image to the beast that had the wound by a sword and did live. and he had power to give life unto the image of the beast that the image of the beast should both speak and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed and it causeth all both small and great rich and poor free and enslaved to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads and that no man might buy or sell except he that had the mark or the name of the beast or the number of his name. Hear his wisdom let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast for is the number of a man and his number is six hundred threes core and six. Six hundred and sixty six.

The beast of verse 11 is like a lamb. He’s a false messiah pretending meekness and humility. He’s a counterfeit of the devil himself. Satan always counterfeits. Someone has put it this way, God has his wise virgin, Satan has his foolish ones. Outwardly they appear alike. God sows good seeds, Satan sows tears. God plants the true vine, Satan the vine of the earth. God has a bride; Satan has a harlot. God has a city, the New Jerusalem; Satan also has a city, the corrupt Babylon. God has a man, the Lord Jesus Christ; Satan has aman, the beast king. God's man is the son of God; Satan's man is the son of perdition. Finally God is manifested in the form of the holy; Satan is manifested in the form of a trio of evil.
The two horns you find here indicate that he assumes the kingly and prophetic offices of Christ. He does not, he cannot, he never will assume the priestly office of Christ because there are sacrifices, and sacrifices are doom. He was defeated at cavalry. On the cross, Christ openly made a show of him when he conquered principalities and powers. Colossians 2:14-15 and this antichrist is in Jerusalem under the power of and in collaboration with the roman beast in Rome. As in Daniel 11 he recognizes only one force and that's the God of forces. His speech betrays him as a servant of Satan. You'll notice that he speaks as a dragon. His speech betrays him as a tool and an agent of the devil. Speech can do that just as with Jacob and Isaac. Isaac said the hands were the hands of Esau but the voice was the voice of Jacob. In verse12 and 13 we find that the second beast has a delegated power. He assumes divine prerogative. He manifests signs like Elijah did. He makes even fire to come down out of heaven as Elijah did on Mount Carmel on the earth on the sight of man.

This false prophet seeks to imitate the things that a true godly prophet like Daniel did, like Elijah, excuse me, as Elijah did centuries before when he withstood the prophets of Baal. His aim is that all those that dwell on the earth should worship the first beast. He tries to have men worship the first beast. He wants to arrogate as much power to himself in order that in turn he may pass it on to the first beast. That's also a counterfeit for we read in john 1:18 that the purpose of Christ was to glorify God and to reveal him. No man [inaudible] had seen God the only begotten son who was in the bosom of the Father. He hath declared him. The son declares the father. In John 5:43, the Son comes in the name of the Father. One will come in his own name, and that one Israel will receive. As Christ was always pointing men to the father to
worship him, so this false Christ antichrist will be pointing men to the first beast to worship him. Christ wanted men to believe on God the Father who sent him. So this miserable counterfeit the antichrist will take that same arrangement and will try to make men to worship the first beast. [inaudible] verse 14 and 15 where he deceives them that well on the earth by reason of the signs given him to do in the side of the beast. he had the power given him to give breath to the image, the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause that as a many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. now giving power to give breath to the image I have some friends and some godly commentators who would say this is just a matter of the use of ventriloquism, that if we are to take the words in their normal sense, God somehow allows authority to be given to give breath to the image. so that that image should speak because it's going to have to fool thousands and thousands and thousands of people. it's going to be able to speak cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed oh what’s the image? it's the image of that first hideous beast. remember how gentile domination began in the times of the gentiles in Daniel 3. it began by setting up an image in the plain of [inaudible] by Nebuchadnezzar. an image attempting uniformity, standardization of worship. brought in idolatry. nowhere you have the times of the gentiles ending the same way as then, as they began.

Daniel chapters 3-6 are historically true but they’re also prophetic of what will happen in the end of the times of the gentiles. The image is that abomination of desolation. An abomination that desolates spiritually. spoken of in Daniel 9:27: this beast, the second beast gives the image breath through the power of Satan just as the magicians of Egypt were able to perform certain miracles within bounds in Egypt when Moses and arum performed true miracles from God. So this man of
sin will have power to work wonders, miracles, in attestation in confirmation of the lies. 2 Thessalonians 2, all is despotic tyranny under the rule of the beast without consideration for human rights. Human rights are only secure and [inaudible] never forget it. Where Christ is honored and revered. And the more men depart from Christian principle, the more human rights stand in jeopardy. That’s why these rights are honored in God blessed land. Christ is honored and revered in our God blessed land. But the more we depart from these principles the more human rights will be abridged only in the measure which Christ is honored in revered are human rights secure and inviolate we repeat. The mark shows [inaudible] all are marked for ownership. Social economic ostracism will be the lot of the faithful and that will be hard to bear. It will be bad enough for them to bear social ostracism even religious ostracism. But oh to bear economic ostracism, think of their own loved ones that are with them, little ones in the family, and they will not be able to buy or sell except if they have that mark of the beast. A mark in the name of the beast will not be revealed but his number is six hundred and sixty six. Perhaps it represents the full manifestation of what is in the heart of man. Some have tried to get 666 from the numerical value of Hebrew and Greek words like Nero and Caesar and I think it actually means a full manifestation of what’s in the heart of man. 6 indicates that which is less than the number of divine perfection. Here is the great last desperate attempt of man to rob God of His glory and power. It will be attempted by a counterfeit Christ who will pretend that he is Christ. But the faithful won’t be fooled. Don’t be deceived by Satan friend.

The best way to be sure you’re right at the end is to be right at the beginning. Accept the crucified Christ, believe on the true Lamb of God, behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the
sin of the world. It’s not by works of righteousness which we have done that we're saved but by grace through faith that not of ourselves is the gift of God. It’s not of works lest any man should boast. Accept Christ now.

Now chapter 14 of the revelation is the sequel. It’s God's answer to the wickedness of these characters in chapter 13. God intervenes both in grace and in judgment. Now we've already said that chapters 12-14 form a series of their own. They come between the trumpet judgment and the bold judgment intending very specifically to emphasize the characters prominent in the end time. They are thus far Satan, Israel, the Lord Jesus Christ himself, the heavenly host, that includes Michael and his angels, the beast, the antichrist, of course God the father. Chapter 14 has a number of more or less independent sections. we find open of the first of them in verses one to five, and I look and lo a lamb stood on mt. Sinai an with him 140 and 4 thousand having his father's name written in their foreheads and I heard a voice in heaven like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of a great thunder, and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps, and they sang as it were a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures, and the elders, and no man could learn that song but the 144 thousand who were redeemed from the earth. These are they who were not defiled with women for they are virgins. These are they who follow the lamb wherever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men. The first fruits unto god and unto the lamb, and in their mouth was found no guile for they are without fault before the throne of God.
Verses 1-5 we have the first section on the lamb and the 1444 thousand. This lamb is none other than the lamb in the 5th chapter of the revelation. The same lamb of john the first chapter. The lord Jesus Christ himself. you see these features though there are many new things revealed in the revelation friend these new features do not in any sense do away with the fact that certain individuals and certain personalities are repeated through the revelation in order to give a binding and tying and cementing effect. And so the lamb that is the light of the tribe of Judah in revelation 5, is the same one here as in chapter 14. The 144 thousand of revelation 7 will find here in revelation 14. So the lamb is none other than the lamb of the 5th chapter of the revelation.

He stands on mount Zion as the literal city of David. this picture is by way of anticipation [inaudible] portion of this chapter in order to cheer and to encourage to uplift the spirits of the believers before revealing the coming awful judgments on the earth that we are going to read of and study in revelation chapter 15-16. To cheer believers in Israel among the tribulation saints. The 144000 why that number is exactly the same company as we saw in the 7th chapter of our book. There are no two groups with the same numbering 144000 that would be confusing. The same group in chp. 7 is found here. They are the faithful witnesses to God who came through the great tribulation remaining true despite the attacks of the beast. They who suffer for him will reign with him. Their marks singles them out as belonging to God. Yes they have his name with that of God the father written in their foreheads. Wonderful to have a mark that singles you out as belonging to God. Paul tells us in the book of the revelation [inaudible] excuse me Paul tells us in Galatians not revelation, Paul tells us in Galatians that he bears about in his body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Oh it’s wonderful to be a marked man, but friend, a marked man for God it
will be their immunity from all harm. Now the voices of verses 2 and 3 are the voices of the martyred remnant of Israel. The song is one of redemption just as the song is one of redemption of the next chapter for the harpers of chapters 14 and 15 are the same group. Those who are on mount Zion and those who play on harps know the same song because they have been delivered from the same persecuting agencies of Satan. We read in verse 4 that these are they that were not defiled within for they are virgins. These are they that follow the lamb with us wherever he goeth. These were purchased from among men, they’re the first fruits unto God to the lamb in their mouth was found no lie. They were without blemish.

Now friends, marriage is not defiling. Hebrews 13:4 tells us that marriage in honorable in all and is to be kept so. It’s to be kept inviolate, undefiled. These are pure because they are not defiled with the corruption of the world. So they had a virgin undivided love for Christ. This is talking about the not in the physical realm but in the spiritual realm. They were spiritual virgins in their undivided love for Christ. They had the first fruits of Israel’s harvest. Now the harvest spoken of in romans 11:25-27 is what’s in view. There was no lie in their mouth. The world then will be believing in the lie of Satan. God [inaudible] strong delusions that they should believe not a lie but the lie. 2nd Thessalonians 2:11, what is the lie? It is the lie of the antichrist. It is the lie of the man of sin, the son of perdition who sits in the temple of God pretending that he is God. That’s the lie. The supreme falsehood of men in all ages. The world will then be believing the lie that these will have believed no lie, these godly ones. Truthfulness characterizes their lives and witness. They’re without blemish in their conduct and manner of life. They kept themselves from, the string of those who followed the beast and the antichrist. Now sinless perfection is not
indicated nor strayed here anymore than it is in 1 john 1: any man who says he has no sin or any man who says he has not sinned oh he [inaudible] he makes God a liar. So sinless perfection is not spoken of here.