

Revelation, Part 17

Antichrist Continued

We continue our study of the main characters in Revelation with more details about Antichrist, the Little Horn. The Book of Daniel has much to say about him and the Tribulation, especially Daniel 9 verses 24-27 which concerns Daniel's Seventy Weeks prophecy. Four longish verses describe the time remaining in history for Daniel's "thy people" meaning Israel. It breaks this time down into three parts of seventy "weeks" which are "weeks" of seven years (Dan 9:24). Using key markers in these four verses we can identify the times of which Daniel speaks.

There are three groups of "weeks": 7 weeks, 62 weeks (v 25), and one week (v 27) that total 490 years. The seven weeks (49 years) "from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem" was fulfilled when Jerusalem was a walled city and once more occupied. From there to the coming of "Messiah the Prince" there is another 62 weeks (v 25), or 434 years, and that was fulfilled when Jesus entered Jerusalem on the back of a young donkey to offer himself as Messiah. Verse 26 then says Messiah was "cut off," and the Hebrew word used there means He was killed. That, of course, refers to the Cross.

It should be noted that Daniel was not shown the intercalary period we call the Church Age which began on Pentecost of that same year which interrupted the Age of Israel and has not yet run its full course. What Daniel was shown in that last "week" was what happens *after* the Church Age, the continuation of the Age of Israel, Daniel's Seventieth Week of seven years, the Tribulation.

Verse 27 covers this Seventieth Week and some of the actions of Antichrist during the Tribulation. It describes the "image" of Antichrist being set up in the Temple and the ceasing of the animal sacrifices called for in the Mosaic Covenant which happens in the "middle of the week". My focus here is on the end of verse 26 and the beginning of verse 27.

Daniel 9:26 And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week, he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.

This passage adds to what we know about this person we are calling Antichrist. The verse 26 part above speaks about the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70. It says, “The **people** of the **prince who is to come** shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.” The “people” who destroyed the city and Temple were the Romans. Then it states that there is a “prince who is to come” who is “of” these same “people” who destroyed the city and the Temple. This speaks of two things: the coming of the “people” (Romans) and the coming (is to come) of this “prince”. These are two events, two comings, first the “people” then the “prince”.

Then in verse 27, it states, “Then he shall confirm a strong covenant with many for one week.” The “he” is the “prince who is to come” and this prince makes “a covenant with many for one week”. The rest of verse 27 speaks of events taking place during the Tribulation, including the setting up of this “image” of the Antichrist in the Temple and his ending of the sacrifices and offerings. The context implies the “many” with whom the covenant is made is Israel.

This “prince who is to come” is Antichrist, and the key takeaway here is that this person is of the same “people” who destroyed the city and Temple in AD70, the Romans. Antichrist therefore must be related to Rome or Italy.

Daniel 11 tells us a little more about this “prince who will come”. What we are about to read is yet another prophecy given to Daniel concerning future history relating to Israel. Verses 1-35 speak of history, specifically the kingdoms that arose and fell from the time of Daniel to about 134BC and the time of the Maccabees and specifically the rule of Antiochus Epiphanes. Interestingly, Antiochus Epiphanes was a “type” for Antichrist of the Tribulation. He declared himself a god and had “Theos” on his coins. He was hostile to Israel and introduced idol worship and sacrificed a pig in the Temple, thus desecrating it. Antichrist of the Tribulation does something very like this.

Verse 36 shifts from events historical for us to speaking of events yet future and describe the antichrist of the Tribulation.

Daniel 11:36 “Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. 37 He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all. 38 But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. 39 Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.

The “Little Horn” of Daniel 7:8 and “the prince who will come” of Daniel 9:26 will be the final ruler in the Roman world. His rise to prominence by satanic power is described in Revelation 13:1-8 where he is called a “beast”.

The events recorded in Dan 11:36-45 will occur during the final seven years, the Seventieth Week of the 70 sevens (9:24). According to Daniel 11:36, this coming king will be independent of any authority apart from himself (he will do as he pleases). Midway through his seven-year reign, he will exercise the political power given to him by the 10 kings (Rev. 17:12-13). He will also take to himself absolute power in the religious realm, “magnifying himself above all gods and defying and speaking blasphemously against the God of gods.” Second Thessalonians speaks of this.

2 Thes. 2:3 ...the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

“He will speak against the Most High” (Dan. 7:25). The world will be persuaded to worship him as a god by the miracles the False Prophet will perform in his name (Rev. 13:11-15). He will succeed in spreading his influence around the world, both politically and religiously (Rev. 13:7-8). The duration of this king’s rule has been determined by God. He will be successful as the world ruler during the three and one-half years of the

Great Tribulation, but at the end of that period, the judgment determined by God will be meted out to him (cf. Dan. 7:11, 26; 9:27; Rev. 19:19-20).

Dan 11:37 He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all. 38 But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. 39 Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.

The word for God is the plural *Elohim*, which can refer to the One True God or a multiplicity of gods. Because it is plural with the "im" ending, some have concluded this is referring to The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and this ruler will be a Jew. The Old Testament frequently uses the phrase "the God of your fathers" to refer to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Ex. 3:15). John Walvoord and others take the position that since this individual will be the final ruler in the Roman world and is "of the people who will come," he must be a Gentile and "*elohim*" being plural should be understood as multiple gods with a lower case "g". They take the position that this "showing no regard for the gods of his fathers" simply means this king will have no respect for any religious heritage and has nothing to do with ethnic background. It could be uttered by a Christian, a Muslim, an atheist, etc. They take the position he will simply set aside all organized religion (nor will he regard any god) and will set himself up (exalt himself) as the sole object of worship. Instead of depending on gods, he will depend on his power (received from Satan, Rev. 13:2) and, by that power, he will demand worship of himself.

As much as I respect Walvoord, I am not sure I buy that interpretation. The fact that this passage makes such a specific reference "He shall regard neither the God of his fathers..." is pretty strong. Daniel uses this same term in 2:23, "I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers..." when referring to the God of Israel.

The second reference to gods is also troubling. "Nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all." "Them" is not in the original text and was supplied by the translators. Furthermore, this statement seems

redundant if the “god(s) of his fathers” is a reference to a multiplicity of gods.

To be accepted by the Jews as Messiah, he must be a Jew of the tribe of Judah and the line of David. These requirements are too important for even secular Jews to ignore.

There is more. Verse 37 says, “He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women.” Literally from the Hebrew construct, this should be translated as “for the one desired by women”. It is said the desire of all Jewish women is to be the mother of the Messiah which is expressed in the New Testament where Mary is described as “blessed are you among women” in Luke 1:42. Perhaps many an Israelite woman had longingly wondered if she would become the mother of the coming Messiah, the nation’s Savior and King. Is this statement a reference to that tradition? Still, others believe this statement that he would “regard neither ... the desire of women” suggests he is a homosexual.

If he is thought to be the Messiah by the Jews, it is hard to imagine they would accept a Gentile as Messiah. It may be that he is both, that he is a Gentile “Roman” but had Jewish blood in his ancestry, or he merely claims he does.

There is one more piece of “evidence” that suggests he is a Jew or claims to have Jewish ancestors. Messiah must come from the tribe of Judah and be the “Son of David,” which is of the line of David. What I am about to show you comes from Clarence Larkin and is admittedly a stretch, but an interesting one, that aligns with the possibility he is a Jew or claims some Jewish DNA. To understand this, we need to go back to the giving of the Law to Moses. I will spare you from having to read the reference passage **Numbers 35:9-29**. You can go read it later, but here I will give you the main details.

God told Moses the children of Israel are to set up six “cities of refuge,” three on the East side of Jordan and three on the West side. The passage then goes into detail about the purpose of these cities. There are three important terms in this passage. They are: “city of refuge,” “manslayer,” and the “avenger of blood”. If someone commits murder, he is to be tried and, if found guilty, put to death. The executioner is the “avenger of blood”

(v19) who is a blood relative of the victim. If the death is determined to have been manslaughter, that is a killing without intent or accidental killing, then once tried and found guilty of manslaughter, the manslayer can take refuge in one of the six cities of refuge designated for that purpose. The avenger of blood cannot touch him as long as he remains inside the city walls, but if he comes outside, he is fair game. The manslayer must remain there until the currently serving high priest dies, then he is free to leave, and the avenger of blood cannot touch him.

Why is this relevant to our study? Compare this to what we have in Revelation.

1. Jesus, of the tribe of Judah, was killed at the behest of the Jews of His time. They were manslayers and declared so by Jesus on the Cross, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing."
2. During the Tribulation, the Jews, the manslayers of Jesus, are told to flee to Edom, Moab, and Ammon where they will find refuge. There is an ancient city just southeast of the Dead Sea within that area called Petra. (Mat 25:15-16)
3. Antichrist pursues them and tries to destroy them as they flee (Rev 12:13-16) but isn't allowed to touch them once they reach the sanctuary. (Dan 11:41)
4. If we are to see Antichrist figuratively as the "avenger of blood" pursuing the "manslayer" Jews to avenge the death of his blood kin, Jesus, then he must be a Jew and of the tribe of Judah, a "blood" relative.

In no way do I believe Antichrist is thinking he is avenging the death of Christ by the Jews, but this could be hinting at the possibility he has some Jewish DNA no matter how small, real or imagined, and claims that during the Tribulation. Admittedly this is a stretch, but could it be one more clue to his racial identity? As I said, I cannot imagine the Jews accepting Antichrist as Messiah unless he at least claimed some Jewish DNA. Of course, he hates the Jews and wants to see them dead for his own reasons as well as those of the indwelling Satan. His Jewishness, if any, would be claimed only for his own malevolent purposes.

Dan 11:38 He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. ³⁹ He shall deal with the strongest

fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall load with honor. He shall make them rulers over many and shall divide the land for a price

The Antichrist will honor a “god of fortresses,” that is he will promote military strength, and because of his political and military power, he will be able to accumulate vast wealth. The god unknown to his fathers (ancestors), who will give him strength, must be Satan. “He shall honor (this god) with gold and silver” probably refers to lavish defense spending, expensive military conquests, and general palm-greasing. Though this king will come to power offering peace through a covenant with Israel (9:27), he will not hesitate to use military power to expand his dominion, and he will be helped by a “foreign god,” Satan. And he may not realize his power comes from Satan, at least at first, but he will become the leader of his own religion that worships Satan.

Verse 40 goes on to describe his end, which we will look at later. Let’s return to Revelation and see more of this person we are calling Antichrist.

Rev 13:1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. 2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. 3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. 4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” 5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. 6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. 7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10 He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

The beast rising out of the sea can refer to the Mediterranean Sea, meaning from the nations surrounding the Med, or the “sea of people”, meaning the Gentiles. Probably both are in view here. “Having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. 2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion.” This is the same picture we saw in Daniel 7:7-8, but here in Revelation, it is a combination of those kingdoms represented by the leopard, bear, and lion.

The beast seen in Revelation 13 is really two entities: the national entity and its ruler, Antichrist. “The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority” (Rev 13:2). The source of his power is Satan. Only two people are said to be indwelt by Satan in the Bible, Judas and Antichrist, and some would add the False Prophet. Now, look at this.

John 17:9 “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. 10 And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. 12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the **son of perdition**, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

“And none of them is lost except the son of perdition.” Who is that? Judas Iscariot.

2 Thes 2:1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the **son of perdition**, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

“That Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.” Who is that? Antichrist. “Son of perdition” is *hyios apoolia*. *Hyios* means “son” and *apoolia* means “destruction” or “ruin”. Judas and Antichrist are the only two places in the Bible where this term is used. For this reason, some think Judas was Antichrist and will come back. Don’t think I buy that, but it does certainly point to Judas being a Satanic attempt to create an antichrist, in the sense of “against Christ,” during the first century.

Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

Lots of controversy surrounds this statement. Its interpretation goes in two distinct directions, and neither is certain, as there are no other supporting texts to shed light on it.

Interpretation 1 - Notice Revelation 13:1-2 says “I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. 2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion.” This refers to the national entity, which is like the previous kingdoms represented by the lion, leopard, and bear, that is Assyria, Medo-Persia, and Greece, with the final kingdom being Rome. It had seven heads and ten crowns, representing important rulers, and one of them, probably the seventh, suffered a fatal wound caused by a sword (v14).

Many have attempted to identify this beast as someone in the past or present who is to become the final world ruler. Among the suggestions have been Nero, Judas Iscariot, Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin, Kissinger, and many others; but such men do not fit the details of this yet-future ruler. Some even see the deadly wound as the destruction of “the pagan Roman Empire” by “the Christian Roman Empire,” thus making it a matter of history rather than prophecy. The revival of the Roman Empire in the Tribulation would then be its “miraculous healing”. I can’t buy that. It looks to me like it is the “head,” the ruler, the king, that receives the fatal wound, a person and not an entity like a nation or empire. Look at the rest of Rev 13:3 ...” And all the world marveled and followed the beast.” The beast is

“followed”. You generally follow people and not entities. For the world to “marvel,” and the word is *thaumazō* and means to be amazed, it would have to be some event or series of events that was extremely unusual. While the old Roman Empire being “reborn” may amaze historians, I am not sure it would be that impressive, as such, to the average person. This is speaking of a person and not a thing.

Interpretation 2 - The obvious and literal interpretation is that Antichrist is a person who receives some form of what would otherwise be a “fatal” head wound, “dies,” and is “resurrected” complete with all the pomp and circumstances associated with the death of a state leader. Understandably, most expositors have a problem with the idea that this person is resurrected from the dead. But I wonder if resurrection is what this is talking about. Both Jesus and the apostles “raised the dead” but this wasn’t resurrection. The dead that were “raised,” lived for a while, and eventually died. That would more appropriately be called “resuscitation”. Furthermore, Satan is perfectly capable of producing “signs and wonders” that deceive those who witness them, particularly the unsaved, as Paul tells us in Second Thessalonians.

2 Thes 2:9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

The word translated “wound” in Revelation 13:3 means to kill or slaughter and in some cases murder. I think we can safely conclude that he “died,” or at least it appeared so. The word “healed” is *therapeuō* and means to cure or heal. I don’t think it is unreasonable to believe that Satan could fake death and resuscitation. This seems reasonable to me because Satan and everything about his actions during the Tribulation is a mimic or false representation of God’s plan. Antichrist can mean against Christ and also false Christ or fake Christ. Antichrist will present himself as Messiah in his attempt to render the real Christ false. His whole plan during the tribulation is to create a false Kingdom, a utopian estate that he believes is only possible under his totalitarian rule. Satan said he would be like the most high, and here we see that in action. I believe this “fatal head wound” is

connected with the abomination of desolation, which we will discuss in more detail when we get to our study of the false prophet.

Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

The context connects the amazement or marveling of the world with the fatal head wound, so my money is on this being a Satanic imitation of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That would get my attention! And look what happens as a result...

Rev 13:4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

The word translated "so" (some Bibles have "and") is *kai kahee* a primary particle having a copulative and sometimes also a cumulative force. It brings to a conclusion previous thoughts. He suffered a fatal wound, was healed, and the world marveled, "so" they worshiped him, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" This person has beguiled the world into believing he is totally amazing and even god. He has so deceived the world that his power is seen as incomparable and cannot be resisted without suffering destruction.

Rev 13:1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. 2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. 3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. 4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

In these four verses this person has gone from being nothing to alive, then dead, resuscitated, then supreme ruler of the world, and is being worshiped as a god. The supernatural character of the beast makes him

the object of worship along with Satan, the source of his power. It has always been Satan's purpose to receive the worship due to God alone, as stated in Isaiah 14:14, "I will make myself like the Most High." This is Satan's final form of counterfeit religion in which he assumes the place of God the Father, and the beast or the world ruler assumes the role of King of Kings as a substitute for Christ. This situation is probably introduced at the beginning of the last three and one-half years when the Great Tribulation begins. The beast, Antichrist, becomes so powerful that he is worshiped along with who enables him, Satan. All forms of religion as we know them are set aside for outright Satan worship. At this point, Antichrist probably becomes fully aware of the source of his power and embraces it.

Rev 13:5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.

El Supremo, Numero Uno, or El Jefe speaks great things and blasphemes. "Great things" should be literally just "great". It is the Greek *meGas*, which means large or abundant and even arrogant. He speaks loudly and boastfully, a great orator. "Blasphemes" is the Greek word *blasphemia* transliterated and means defamation or slander.

Rev 13:6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. 7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them...

He is saying lying things about God and making war against the saints. "Saints" would include both Gentile and Jewish believers but likely focused on the latter. He blasphemes God's name, which in the culture of the day, represents everything God stands for, and the place where He lives and those who live there with him which would include the elect angels and those humans who are saved. This sounds like one of those hyperbole threats we might hear in a movie, "I am coming back to get you, your wife, your kids, your dogs, and your cats and burn down your house, too!" It is all-inclusive! Satan hates EVERYTHING God stands for and those who stand with Him. And now, during the Tribulation, he finally has the gloves taken off (the one who "restrains" was removed), and he can

vet his anger which is what this verse is saying he does. Woe be unto those who are alive at this time and oppose him. He is coming after you! And it appears from this passage and others that he has considerable success.

As verse 5 says, he has this authority for 42 months which refers to the second half of the Tribulation. He reaches the very peak of his power at the mid-point of the trib, and it is downhill from there. For the first 3.5 years, he is amassing power, then at the mid-point, he begins to exercise that power in very telling ways that support this view that he is invincible. I believe it is at this point that he suffers the “fatal” head wound and “recovers,” and that is the beginning of his reaching his power peak. Meanwhile, remember what we saw of him back in Daniel?

Dan 11:36 “Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. 37 He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all. 38 But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. 39 Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.

Dan 7:25 He shall speak pompous words against the Most High,
Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,
And shall intend to change times and law.
Then the saints shall be given into his hand
For a time and times and half a time.

Rev 13:7 ...And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

It says he has authority over everyone, “every tribe, tongue, and nation”. This can be taken to be limited to the known world in the first century, or it

can mean literally what it says, the whole world. Many expositors take this literally, and he does exercise power over the world, at least for a short while. As predicted in Daniel 7:23, he will “devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it.” Look back at Revelation 13:3 and 4.

Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. 4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”

For some period of time, which I believe is quite short, he is so intimidating and seen as so powerful he cannot be resisted. “Who is able to make war with him?” This is manifested in his association with Satan who appears to be defeating God and all we, as Christians, believe.

In addition to achieving political domination over the entire world, he also abolishes all other religions and demands worship.

2 Thes. 2:3 ...the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

The word translated "asGod" here can be either the “One True God” or any god. I think the statement translated “all that is called God” refers to all gods in general. “So that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” is more likely a reference to the One True God.

Rev 13:8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

We are not going to develop this subject of the Book of Life right now because I want to give it a little more time when we get to the final judgments near the end of Revelation.

Rev 13:9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10 He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints, an exhortation similar to that given to the seven churches back in Rev 2 and 3 with one significant difference. Let's compare.

2:7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

2:11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

2:17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

2:29 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

3:6 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

3:13 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

3:22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

But in Revelation 13:9, "If anyone has an ear, let him hear...", no church! That suggests that the Church is not present on Earth because it has been raptured before all this started. Revelation is better understood as an exhortation to believers in all generations, but especially those who will be living in the end times.

Rev 13:10 He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

This probably should be translated as "If any man is for captivity, into captivity he goes. If any man is for killing by the sword he must be killed by the sword." Those who persecute the saints and lead them into captivity or kill them by the sword must also ultimately go into captivity and die by the sword. In this judgment of wicked men is found the ultimate triumph of the patience and faith of the saints in their hour of trial. The ultimate doom

of their oppressors is assured, and here in the middle of the book is assurance that their suffering will be vindicated.

Next session: the False prophet.