

Unholy Trinity

By

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“And he deceives them that dwell on the earth” (Rev. 13:14).

Man has an instinctive desire for the security, blessings and general design of the Creator’s purpose. Satan, who has nothing of his own to offer, acquires his following by counterfeiting God’s purpose, and thus drawing men away from the truth by deception. The 13th Chapter of Revelation outlines the counterfeit and the way Satan deceives the world.

However, before one can detect a counterfeit, he must know something of the genuine article. First he must know God’s design, then he can see how it is counterfeited. The purpose of God as set forth in Scripture is to have man in His image in a perfect creation (Gen. 1:26). For rebels who reject this purpose God promised death, the very reversal of creation, with man returning to the dust from whence he was created (Gen. 2:17, 3:19). In the Day of Judgment this death becomes final and eternal, unless man has been redeemed by Christ (Matt. 10:28, 1 Pet. 3:7). The redemption is accomplished by the death of Jesus, who took man’s guilt and died his death, thus freeing man from execution at judgment (2 Cor. 5:21). The resurrection of Jesus is our assurance that since we are made free from sin by Christ’s sacrifice, we may rise from the dead as He did, to live as deathless and immortal people in a new creation, which God will prepare (2 Tim. 1:9, 10; 2 Pet.3:13; Rev. 21:1-8). All those subjecting themselves to God through Christ make up the Kingdom over which God will reign forever.

The aim of Satan is to defeat this divine plan by causing man to follow another. While Satan has no inherent power of his own, (“Power belongs unto God”) he does have the ability to deceive, and uses this to bring about a counterfeit program which to the world appears to be the very purpose for which man is designed.

An examination of Revelation 13 reveals how the counterfeiting is done.

1. The beast rising out of the sea of the human race with ten horns and seven heads (Verse 1) indicates power that is universal and complete. This is the counterfeit of the power of Christ who said, “All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth” (Matt. 28:18).
2. “The dragon gave him his power, and his throne, and great authority” (Verse 2). Again, this reminds us of the fact that God has given power and authority to Christ. The “dragon” refers to Satan (Rev. 12:9), and the beast is a false Messiah. So the false Messiah gets his power from Satan, just as the real Messiah gets his power from God.
3. “And I saw one of his heads as though it had been smitten unto death; and his death stroke was healed” (Verse 3). This is in imitation of the fact that Christ was smitten with

the death stroke, was buried, and came forth from the dead to life. Also, remember that the rebellious nation of the Jews was smitten and crushed in 70 A.D. under God's judgment, but now arises in bitter rebellion against Christ as a leader toward one-world government.

4. "And the whole earth wondered after the beast...and they worshipped the dragon because he gave his authority unto the beast" (Verse 3, 4). In the Christian system we worship the Father who has given all authority to the Son. Consider the voluntary worship of Satan, humanism and all aspects of government power.

5. "And they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? And who is able to war with him?" The beast appears invincible and all-powerful, and the world is afraid to oppose him. True Christians, of course, know that Christ is all-powerful, and they will not be intimidated into worshipping the state and its agencies.

You will note that the beast is not merely obeyed, but actually worshipped; that is, men voluntarily and willingly do his bidding. Even his blasphemies against the true God and war against the saints (Verses 6-7) are whole-heartedly endorsed by "all that dwell on the earth", except, of course, the Christians themselves. Can we not already see this attitude of hostility to the truth of God as men conform to the policies of the world-rulers.?

6. In verse 11 appears the second beast, who is elsewhere spoken of as the false prophet. "And he had two horns like unto a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his sight" (Verse 11, 12). This second beast, or false prophet, counterfeits the Holy Spirit. He bears the same relation to the dragon and the first beast that the Holy Spirit does to God and to Christ. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would not speak from himself, but would take of Christ and declare it unto us, and also that the Spirit would glorify Christ (John 16:13-14). So the false prophet, the second beast, speaks "as a dragon" (the voice of Satan) and exercises the authority of the first beast (the false Messiah).

7. "And he makes the earth and them that dwell therein to worship the first beast" (Verse 12). The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to magnify Christ and cause men to turn to Him. The purpose of the false prophet is to cause people to religiously accept and obey the will of the beast that has world-wide power. One may see in this a religious system that advocates support of one-world government or a Utopia of "peace and brotherhood".

8. "And he doeth great signs. . ." (Verse 13). We are reminded of the signs and miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit, to impress men with the Gospel of Christ. Now we are witnessing an upsurge of witchcraft in every form, to which the world turns. "Great signs" also are seen in the wonders of technology (space travel, for example) which cause man to glory in himself and advance the religion of humanism.

9. "...saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast" (Verses 14, 15). Remember that it is God's purpose to have man IN HIS OWN IMAGE, and this image is begun when the Holy Spirit begins to transform a man into a new creature after the likeness of Christ. So the UNHOLY imitation of the Holy Spirit, the

false prophet, seeks to make men in the image of the false Messiah, under the direction of Satan. Is there any wonder that modern religions are generating violence and lawlessness?

10. “And it was given unto him to...cause that as many as should not worship the image of the beast should be killed” (Verse 15). One of the most often repeated powers of the Godhead is the right to judge mankind and destroy the wicked in the Day of Judgment. The unholy trinity usurps this right, under the guise of justice and equality, executing those who stand in the way of world brotherhood, The “insiders” (*The Council on Foreign Relations* and numerous government agencies) who promote totalitarian world government take the presumptuous attitude that they know what is good for all men, and that they know who has the right to live. For example, the government promotion of abortion and euthanasia. Many men of power who opposed these “insiders” have died mysteriously, or by assassination.

11. “And he causes all...that there should be given them a mark...” (Verse 16). Every Christian is “sealed with the Holy Spirit” until the day of Christ’s coming. Satan also “seals” and marks his worshippers.

12. “And that no man should be able to buy or to sell, save he that hath the mark...” (Verse 17). Christ has promised to provide for those who seek “first His kingdom and His righteousness,” that is, to those who are fully committed to Him. The world-rulers promise security only to those who give it their full allegiance. This “mark” need not be visible. One’s allegiance is noted by what he thinks (forehead) and what he does (the hand).

13. “He that hath understanding, let him count the number of the beast; for it is the number of a man...” (Verse 18). The “Number of a man” reminds us of the fact that Jesus was identified with the race of mankind, that he partook of flesh and blood, was tempted as other men and was “numbered with transgressors” in his death in order to redeem man. As Jesus was the perfect man, the beast sets himself up as ideal man. Actually he is the “man of sin” (2 Thess. 2:1-12) and has a ready-made following.

14. What we see here is a counterfeit of the whole Godhead, an unholy trinity, with the dragon, the beast and the false prophet imitating the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Note: Revelation 16:13 shows the unity of the three in trying to overthrow God.)

God decrees that Christians bring “every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:5). The unholy trinity decrees that every thought be captured for obedience to the Beast. To do so “Satan fashions himself into an angel of light...his ministers also fashion themselves as ministers of righteousness” (2 Cor. 11:14-15). The world, thoroughly deceived, is rapidly and willingly supporting the counterfeit kingdom, offering man peace, security, freedom and a perfect environment, things which can be found only after the day of judgment, when sin and sinners have perished for eternity and God’s people inhabit a new creation where “there shall be no curse any more” (Rev. 22:3).

When Christ commissioned His disciples to go forth into the world, it was not to rebuild the world or to establish a world empire. Rather it was to preach the good tidings of His kingdom which is already here; it was to call men to repentance and remission of sins (Luke 24:47) and to teach men to wage warfare against the hosts of Satan and his false kingdom.

There is one way to understand many controversial issues of the day, and perhaps it is the only way. That is to determine where the issue lies in relation to God's eternal purpose, and in relation to the counterfeit false system being built by men deceived by Satan.

Paul wrote that the coming of the lawless one "is "according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceit of unrighteousness for them that perish because they received not the love of the truth that they might be saved" (2 Thess. 2:8-10). Satan deceives. The end of the one deceived is to "perish". The only protection is the love of the truth. "The truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

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