

Lecture 28 – Revelation 12-16: The Unholy Trinity

Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as first fruits to God and the Lamb. No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless. Revelation 14:1-5

Key Terms

Counterfeiter- trinity and unholy trinity, Satan, sea beast, earth beast, harlot- Babylon, 666, mark of the beast

Lecture Objectives

- Identify and describe the parts of the “unholy trinity”
- Describe John’s purpose in presenting this unholy trinity as he intends it to impact his audience
- Identify ways that this presentation helps you make sense of your Christian life and ministry and its place in God’s redemptive work

Preliminary Questions

- People are often intimidated by the imagery of Revelation. Based on the principles already encountered for interpretation, how would you explain the place of the sea beast and earth beast in the book and its interpretation?

Revelation 12-16: The Unholy Trinity

(Continued from lecture 27)

Introduction & Review:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. What do they have in common?
6. Review of last lecture:
 - a. Spiritual reality behind the scenes
 - b. The 5 defeats of Satan

III. Satan’s Allies (13:1-18)

A. Themes

1. Satan persists, enlisting powerful allies in battle.
2. Satan the counterfeiter creates an unholy trinity

God is to....	The Unholy Trinity
God the Father	Satan
Christ, the Son	Sea Beast
Holy Spirit	Earth Beast
The Bride, his church	The Harlot, Babylon

B. Sea Beast - the image of Satan in 13:1-10

1. This beast represents (13:1-3) ...
 - a. Head:

- b. Crown:
 - c. Horns:
 - d. Add up to ...
 - 2. Goal of beast according to passage:
 - 3. Representing government as it (13:4-8) ...
 - a. Example of Domitian:
 - b. Communism and Socialism:
 - c. United States?
 - 4. Fatal wound
 - a. Examples from history
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 5. Method:
 - a. Intimidation
 - b. Coercion
 - c. Questioning (13:4,7):
 - 1) "Who is like ..." is used throughout Scripture in reference to ...
 - 2) But the beast ...
 - 6. The way we will fight the beast is not with the beast's methods
- C. Earth beast (a religious figure; a perversion of Holy Spirit)
 - 1. Speaks, performs signs, and orchestrates worship (13:11-14)
 - 2. Resembles a lamb, but speaks as a dragon:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - 3. The language of "in front of"
 - a. Biblical language for ...
 - b. So this beast is ...
 - 4. Performs signs
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. Leads to worship
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
 - 5. Concept: false religion supports the wicked state and society.
 - a. Popes:
 - b. Islam:
 - c. Roman emperors:
 - d. State churches:
 - e. America:
 - f. Protestant churches in America:
- D. Mark and number (666) of beast (13:16-18)
 - 1. Numbers:
 - a. Seven is ...
 - b. Six is ...
 - 2. Mark
 - a. Contrast between "seal" and "mark"
 - b. The seal of God's people provides for ...
 - c. The mark of the beast's people provides for ...

- d. A physical, visible mark?
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
- e. Subtle appeal of the mark: the right to ...
- 3. The mark or seal and one's fate:
 - a. Counterfeit of God's seal:
 - 1) Seal of God: guarantees ...
 - 2) Mark of beast: promises ...
 - b. The significance of naming:
 - 1) In the Old Testament
 - 2) In the New Testament
- 4. Logic of connection between naming and appeal of economic rights:
 - a. Satan's strategies for victory:
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
 - 5) _____
- 5. How do we resist?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

IV. Judgment and the Gospel (14) -- Why the Interest in Marks and Seals?

A. Vast multitude belongs to the Father (14:1-5)

B. The people remain pure

C. Three angelic messages (14:6-13)

1. #1 preaches eternal gospel: five views, of which two are:

a. _____

b. _____

2. #2 preaches doom for Babylon

a. Mark of Babel & Babylon has always been ...

b. Babylon says:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

c. God says:

3. #3 preaches judgement:

a. On those who ...

b. _____

c. _____

D. Choices:

1. The mark of the beast or the seal of God?

2. Cup of Lord's supper or cup of wrath?

E. Final judgment when all are ripe for it (14:14-20)