C. Role of the Beast

Bamberg Apocalypse
Background for Rev. 13:1-10

Beast of Rev. 13:1-10

OT text

?
Daniel 7 and Rev. 13:1-10

Daniel 7
① lion
② bear
③ leopard
④ iron teeth & ten horns

Revelation 13
◆ lion’s mouth
◆ bear’s feet
◆ leopard
◆ 10 horns

Composite horror
Beast as Demonized State

Beast (Rev. 13:1-8)

4 beasts (Dan. 7)

4 idol kingdoms (Dan. 2)

Roman Emperor demands worship

Last of the 4 is Rome
Satan’s Counterfeit “Son”

- Rev. 12:13-17: Satan cannot defeat the church by deceit alone.
- Rev. 13:1,2,4: He creates a monster in his image.
Repetitive Manifestations

- Satan has repeated defeats (pattern or war)
- The Beast can have
  - repeated manifestations
  - and repeated defeats.

Like father, like son.
Understanding Our Time

- What is our era of redemptive history?
  - When does it begin?
  - When does it end?

First Coming  Second Coming
Time of Fulfillment

When is the primary fulfillment?

First Coming

Second Coming

?
Foci of Fulfillment

John, 7 churches

Us

Final crisis

Repeated
Fourfold Work of Beast

- Roman persecution
- Final persecution
- Persecution NOW, 2 Tim 3:1,12
- Repeated persecution
- Suetonius, Domitian 12.2.
- 2 Thess. 2:6-8
- Totalitarian aspirations
- Dan. 7 spans this age; 2 Tim. 3:1, 12
Repeated Wickedness

- 2 Thess. 2:7
- restrained mystery
- “mystery of lawlessness”

- 2 Thess. 2:8
- unrestrained, revealed
- “man of lawlessness”
## Analogous Climaxes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 Thess. 2:7-8</th>
<th>Rev. 17:1-18</th>
<th>1 John 2:18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>already</strong></td>
<td>beast that was (8)</td>
<td>many antichrists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mystery (7)</td>
<td>man of lawlessness (8)</td>
<td>supreme Antichrist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>eighth king (11)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Modern Totalitarian Dream

- State
  - Submit
    - Religion
    - Tribe
    - Personal goals
  - Good citizen
Christian Loyalties

GOD

exhaustive submission

state tribe family personal goals

model Christian international church
D. The False Prophet
Two Monsters

Rev. 13:1-10

A beast from the sea

Called “The Beast”

Rev. 13:11-18

A beast from the earth

Called “The False Prophet”

Note Rev. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10.
The False Prophet

- False Prophet assists the Beast.
- He counterfeits the Holy Spirit.
False Prophet as Counterfeit

- Promotes worship of Christ
- Leads into truth
- Works miracles
- Exercises authority of Christ

- Promotes worship of the Beast
- Deceives
- Counterfeit miracles
- Exercises authority of the Beast
E. The Prostitute

West Flemish Apocalypse
Two Opponents

Who will defeat God's people for me?

I will

I will
Strategy of Opposition

How?

Persecution!

Seduction with money and sex!
Response to Opposition

Calling of the church:

Light-bearing Witness
Endurance (13:10)

Virgin purity
Separation (18:4)

Opposition:

Persecuting power of the Beast
Seductive luxury of the Prostitute
Prostitute Depends on Beast

- Prostitute sits on the Beast (Rev 17).
- Beast and Prostitute go together.
- Fourfold manifestations of the Beast lead to fourfold manifestations of the Prostitute.
Beast and Prostitute

- Roman persecution
- Final persecution
- Persecution NOW
- Repeated persecution

- Roman seduction
- Final seduction
- Seduction NOW
- Repeated seduction
Fourfold Work of Prostitute

◆ Roman seduction
◆ Final seduction
◆ Seduction NOW
◆ Repeated seduction

◆ Jezebel (2:20-23)
◆ 2 Thess. 2:10-11
◆ Compromise with worldliness:
  – money
  – sex
◆ Dan. 7 spans this age

Dan. 7 spans this age

Compromise with worldliness:
  – money
  – sex

Final seduction

Seduction NOW

Repeate seduction

Roman seduction
F. Levels of Application
Idols Worldwide

- **Beast**
  - Totalitarian Power
    - Communism
- **Prostitute**
  - Immoral Pleasure
    - Corrupt business
    - Corrupt sexuality
- **False Prophet**
  - Propaganda
Revealing Contrasts

- God vs. Satan: Transcendence
- Christ vs. Beast: Power
- Bride vs. Harlot: Worship
- False religion
- Human autonomy
- Liberation
- Salvation through technique and state
- Integrate native religions
- Money, pleasure
Forms of Idolatry

- **Literal:** Worship of Caesar or Artemis
- **Blatant:** Devotion to power or money
- **Subtle:** “Christian” compromises
- **Universal:** Root motivations
Idols in USA

- **Beast**
  - Power
    - State

- **Prostitute**
  - Pleasure
    - Leisure

- **False Prophet**
  - Propaganda
    - Education
    - Media
Cooperative Evil (17:3,7)

Power for maintenance

Beast = statist idol

Prostitute = pleasure idol

Justification, motivation

False Prophet rationalizes (13:12-17)
Blatant and Subtle Idolatry

- Statism
- Manipulation
  - Pressuring
  - Pleasing man
- Money, sex
- Fantasizing
  - Being rich
  - Sexual flirtation

It's tempting.
Money as Subtle Idol

- After a tithe, greed. It’s MINE.
- Or monk’s poverty.
- Or self-righteous simple life-style.
- Or Marxism (let experts do it for me).
Sex as Subtle Idol

- Promiscuity: “if it feels good, do it.”
- Selfishness within legal boundaries
- Monk’s celibacy
- Prudery: despising the body
- Feminism (let experts do it for me).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beast</th>
<th>Prostitute</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fear</td>
<td>Lustful desire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive,</td>
<td>Active,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>retreating</td>
<td>advancing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoid pain</td>
<td>Get pleasure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At any cost</td>
<td>At any cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For ME</td>
<td>For ME</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Solution for Idolatry

- Worship Satan
- Deceptive redemptions
- Fear false power
- Lust for money
- Lust for sex

- Worship God (4)
- True redemption in the Lamb (5)
- God’s Throne (22:1; 4:2)
- God’s Wealth (21:21; 4:3)
- God’s Marriage (19:7; 21:9)

False replaced by True
Destruction of Idols

- God judges idols, 15:1.

- Idols destroy idolaters, 17:16-17.

Hallelujah!
Examples of Self-Destruction

- Statism consumes wealth (communism).
- Self-pity needs suffering.
- Self-righteousness is self-willed.
- Self-love repels would-be lovers.
- God will purify you to the utmost.
G. Truth and Error
Counterfeit Ideas

- False ideas are counterfeits
- Institutionalized
- Containing enough truth to be plausible
- Containing spiritual poison
- Originating in Satanic deceit
- Useful for Christians?
Bad Reactions to Counterfeits

- Pure rejection

- Pure acceptance
Using Counterfeit Ideas

- Extract the truth
- Set in a Christian context
- But will we fall prey to deceit?
- The importance of spiritual discernment in scholarship and cultural analysis
- Revelation as promoting discernment
- Ultimate failure of the deceit