

REVELATION

The Beast from the Land
(Revelation 13:11-18)

Matthew 7:15-18: Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.



How do we recognize false teachers?

What is the fruit of a teacher?

We must be committed to God's Word
and reject falsehood when it comes.

1. The nature of the second beast

❖ Revelation 13:11: Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.

A. John says he saw this beast rise out of the earth, unlike the first beast who rose out of the sea.

❖ The symbols have meaning, but the meaning is not immediately explained in the text.

1. The nature of the second beast

B. The beast is described as a lamb.

- ❖ He is later directly called the False Prophet.
- ❖ He is clearly a wolf in sheep's clothing. He claims to teach spiritual truth while leading people away from the true Messiah and pointing them to the Antichrist.



1. The nature of the second beast

C. The beast speaks like a dragon.

❖ He will speak lies and convince people to follow him.



2. The work of the second beast

A. The main thing the False Prophet will do is promote false religion.

- ❖ Revelation 13:12: It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.
- ❖ Where did the first beast get his authority (Rev 13:2, 4)?

2. The work of the second beast

B. The False Prophet is given the ability to perform signs and wonders.

- ❖ He will do miracles in order to convince people to follow him.
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 1:22-24: For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

2. The work of the second beast

B. The False Prophet is given the ability to perform signs and wonders.

1. The False Prophet is able to call down fire from heaven.

❖ Revelation 13:13: It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people.

❖ Revelation 11: Two witnesses also perform miracles of Elijah.



2. The work of the second beast

B. The False Prophet is given the ability to perform signs and wonders.

2. The False Prophet is also given the ability to make an image seem to live.

❖ Revelation 13:14-15: And by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and **might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.**

2. The work of the second beast

B. The False Prophet is given the ability to perform signs and wonders.

2. The False Prophet is also given the ability to make an image seem to live.

- ❖ Apart from the Jewish temple, virtually all ancient temples had images of their gods set up within the temple.
- ❖ Antiochus IV set up an image of Zeus with the altar in the Jewish temple in 167 B.C.

2. The work of the second beast

C. The False Prophet's purpose is to point people to the first beast.

- ❖ The False Prophet is always mentioned in connection with the Antichrist.
- ❖ As Satan sets up counterfeit worship, some see him as attempting to set up counterfeit trinity.

2. The work of the second beast

D. The False Prophet forces the mark of the beast on people.

❖ Revelation 13:16-18: Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

2. The work of the second beast

D. The False Prophet forces the mark of the beast on people.

- ❖ Many early Christians tried to use the letters of names to identify the Antichrist as a particular Roman emperor, often Nero.
- ❖ More modern attempts have pointed to Hitler, Stalin, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Ronald Wilson Reagan.
- ❖ Irenaeus warned against trying to identify the Antichrist by these numbers.



2. The work of the second beast

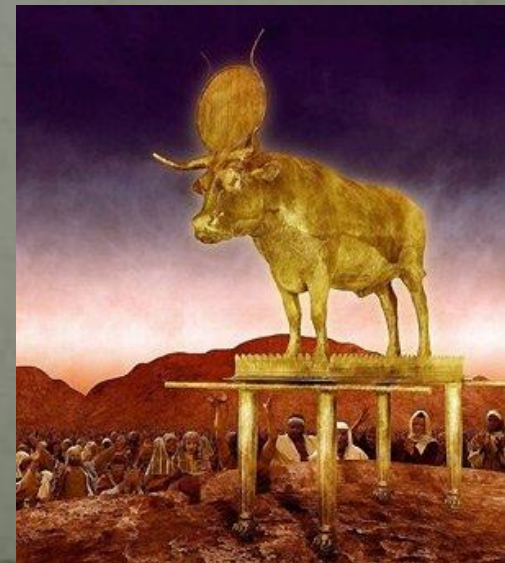
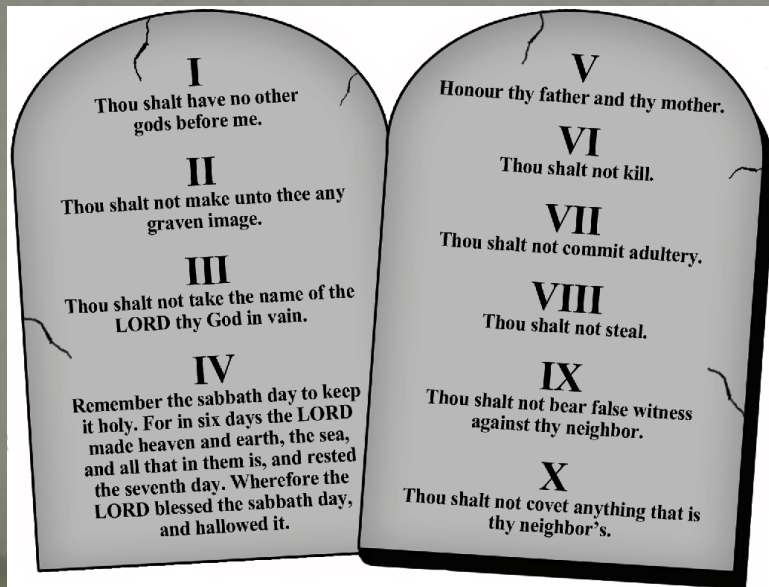
D. The False Prophet forces the mark of the beast on people.

- ❖ Revelation 13:17: No one can buy or sell without this mark.
- ❖ A person needed to pledge loyalty to the Antichrist in order to participate in the economy.
- ❖ Smyrna and Pergamum were expected to have certificate showing worship of the Caesar in order to participate in the trade guilds.

3. Scripture repeatedly warns against false teaching.

A. The Old Testament often warned against false teachers.

❖ Israel often turned to false gods, but they had been given many warnings against false teaching and idols.



3. Scripture repeatedly warns against false teaching.

A. The Old Testament often warned against false teachers.

- ❖ Deuteronomy 13:1-3: If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and **the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, “Let us go after other gods,” which you have not known, “and let us serve them,” you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams.** For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

3. Scripture repeatedly warns against false teaching.

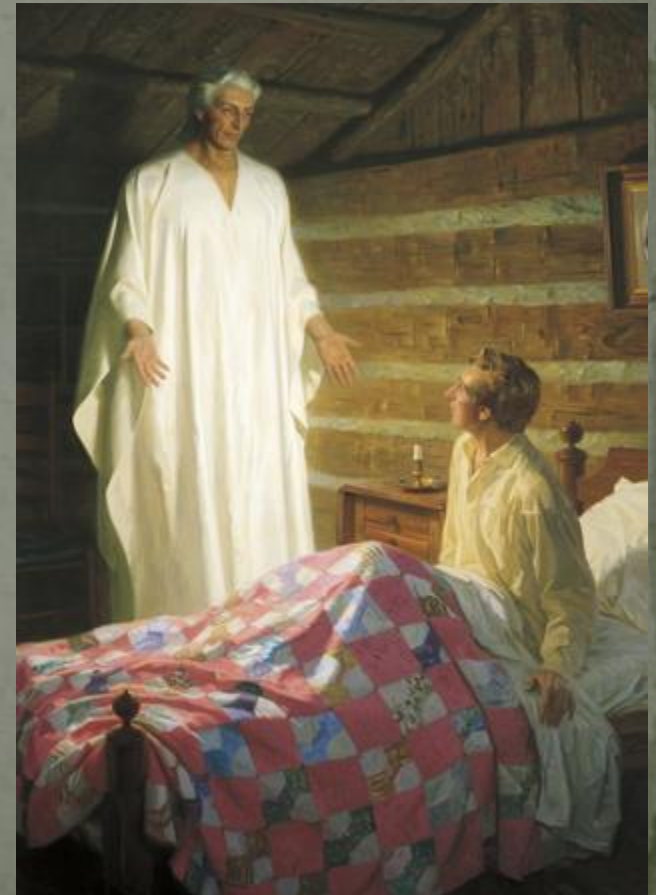
B. The New Testament often warned against false teachers.

❖ Galatians 1:8-9: But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

3. Scripture repeatedly warns against false teaching.

B. The New Testament often warned against false teachers.

❖ Measure the message by the unchanging Word of God.



3. Scripture repeatedly warns against false teaching.

C. Warnings are given about false teaching in the end times.

- ❖ Matthew 24:24: For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.
- ❖ We largely focus on the Antichrist and the False Prophet, since Scripture emphasizes them. But there are many other false teachers during that time as well.

3. Scripture repeatedly warns against false teaching.

C. Warnings are given about false teaching in the end times.

❖ 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11: The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, **because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false.**

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- Society and culture seeks to redefine morality and conform us to their way of thinking.
 - Sinful things are called a “fundamental right” to be fought for.
- How do we live in a society that seeks to establish its own moral system apart from God’s Word?

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- Cultivate a love for God's truth, not seeking great signs and wonders.
- The Holy Spirit will not lead contrary to His Word that has already been given.
- We must be committed to God's Word and reject falsehood when it comes.

NEXT TIME:
REVELATION 14:1-7

- The Hope of
the Gospel