

**“The Tribulation’s Terrible Trio”**  
The Revelation of Jesus Christ—Part 20  
*Revelation 13*

**Review:** In chapters 12 and 13, we are introduced to the “Tribulation’s Terrible Trio.” Last week we were introduced to the Red Dragon and we saw his tribulation career. We saw that the Red Dragon was the symbol used to identify Satan.

*The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*

Revelation 12:9

## 1. The Dragon

*... The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born.*

Revelation 12:4

*... Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.*

Revelation 12:7-8

*And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea...*

Revelation 13:1

### Points to ponder:

- Satan, at every turn, has tried to foil God’s plans.
- Satan has already lost the battle.
- He now accuses Christians before God.
- A day is coming when he will be kicked out of heaven.
- A day is coming when he will accuse Christians no longer.

## 2. The Antichrist

*And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?" The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and*

those who live in heaven. He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world. Revelation 13:1-8

**Points to ponder:**

- The Antichrist will be empowered by Satan.
- The Antichrist will be fatally wounded, but will miraculously live.
- The whole world will worship the Antichrist and by doing so they will worship Satan.
- The Antichrist will be the vilest blasphemer of God who ever lived.
- The Antichrist will rule the earth.

**3. The False Prophet**

Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666.

Revelation 13:11-18

**Points to ponder:**

- The False Prophet will establish and lead the one-world religion.
- The False Prophet will amaze the world with miraculous powers.
- The False Prophet will deceive the whole world.
- If the inhabitants of the earth do not worship the Antichrist, they will be killed by the leader of the one-world religion.
- The False Prophet will initiate the mark on the right hand or forehead for buying and selling.

**Life Response:** Try for just one brief moment to put yourself in the place of a person who, during the tribulation has come to grips with the truth of the Gospel, and accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. He or she will not be able to bow to the Antichrist and because of it, will endure intense persecution.

He who has an ear, let him hear. If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed.

This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

- “He who has an ear, let him hear”—does not have the qualifying phrase as we have seen before, “what the Spirit says to the churches.”
- “He who has an ear, let him hear”—applies to “anyone” who has an ear “tuned toward God” in every age. True believers have always had to take their stand for Christ!
- True believers are not to take matters into their own hands. God’s people must not retaliate against their persecutors; there is no place now and there will be no place then for militant, aggressive, or violent believers terrorizing their persecutors.
- Verse 10 tells the persecuted how to endure.
- Jesus is our example in all things, even persecution.

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 1 Peter 2:23

So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. 1 Peter 4:19