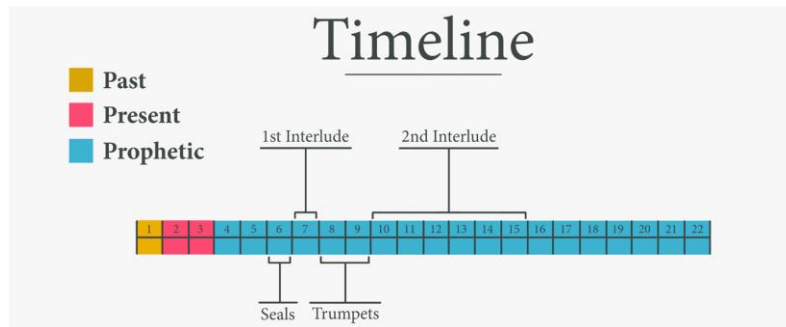


Revelation 13:11-14:5 – The False Prophet, The Lamb, And 144,000



Rev. 13:11-18: *“Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. It exercises all the authority of the first beast...”*

- Vs. 11 introduces us to the false prophet, the religious leader for the antichrist. Some believe this person is Jewish, otherwise no Jews would follow this person. I am not sure that they are Jewish. He may not be as openly ruthless as the antichrist. He is a fake, though, as we shall see. He will not be kind.
- We see here the political and religious uniting together (Rev. 17:1-9, 15-17).
- The Holy Spirit comes from above, this false prophet comes from the earth. We see a distinction there. One is from God, the other from the enemy.
- Vs. 12 tells us that he will promote the worship of the antichrist. It will focus the attention of man to the antichrist and “make” (exercise power and authority) the world bow down to this world leader. This false religious leader will get the world to fall for the lies.

Chuck Swindoll writes, *“The dragon, Satan, appears in Rev. 12:3ff. as the antagonist to the woman and the child. The beast from the sea/Antichrist appears in chapter 13 and receives his throne and authority from the dragon. The beast from the earth is called “the false prophet” to indicate the counterfeit miracles and prophecies that characterize him.... These three evil beings form a parody or imitation of the divine Trinity.”*

- Vs. 13 refers to the fake miracles of this religious leader. Note the miracle mentioned in this verse. Fire was sent from heaven when Elijah asked for it (1 Kings 18:38). Fire destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:24). The false prophet uses a copycat miracle to get people to follow what he is saying.
- There is some thought that this miracle is a fake, some type of pyrotechnics.
- When Jesus was on earth the religious leaders would ask Him to perform miracles to “prove” Who He was. This false prophet fulfills what 2 Thess. 2:9 and Mt. 24:24 warns us about.
- Vs. 14 tells us that the signs this religious leader is “allowed” (God is still in control) to do will get the people of the earth to listen to him and they will build an image of the antichrist. People will be deceived and listen to what they are told. He may also be a good speaker, getting people to buy in to what he says.

Swindoll notes what one commentator wrote about this false prophet, *“His arguments will be subtle, convincing, and appealing. His oratory will be hypnotic, for he will be able to move the masses to tears or whip them into a frenzy. He will control the communication and media of the world and will skillfully organize mass publicity to promote his ends. He will be the master of every promotional device and public relations gimmick. He will manage the truth with guile beyond words, bending it, twisting it, and distorting it. Public opinion will be his to command. He will mold world thought and shape human opinion like so much potter’s clay. His deadly appeal will lie in the fact that what he says will sound so right, so sensible, so exactly what unregenerate men have always wanted to hear.”*

- Some believe this image that is made will be set up in the tribulation temple. I do not know for sure. There are all kinds of views on what this image is. It may be one huge statue. It may be mass-produced. It may be lifelike and given the ability to speak mechanically. Or it could be a literal image that somehow talks.
- Vs. 15 tells us that this image is given the ability to speak. There are those who say that with technology as it is today, this would be easy. Or it could be that the enemy and the false prophet is allowed to give this image the ability to speak.
- Vs. 15 also tells us that those who do not worship the image are put to death. This may include tribulation saints who will not bow down and others who somehow escape death for not bowing down.
- In vss. 16-18 we see how the economic side of things will be affected and we read about the “mark of the beast.” Some things regarding the mark:

A) It will be some type of identifying mark on the hand or forehead. This mark is stamped or imprinted. It will be visible, and you seal your fate by your choice by your mark (Rev. 16:2). I do not believe it is a chip under the skin. Even in the ancient world, soldiers, slaves, followers of cults, and others were marked.

B) You cannot do business without this mark. This may include something such as shopping for groceries, buying gas, medicines, clothes, etc. Purchasing things will be limited. It is also a pledge of allegiance to the antichrist.

C) Unless you have stored goods, starvation will occur if you refuse the mark.

D) Be careful about trying to figure out what the mark is, how it is placed, etc. We can speculate but the Bible simply says we will receive it.

E) The number 666, some believe, shows how this system, both political, economic, and religious, falls short of the perfect Trinity of God. I am not sure.

F) No doubt this will also bring more into the open those who have come to faith in Christ. They will refuse the mark. It will openly identify their belief.

G) In Rev. 13:18, the wisdom and understanding of the meaning behind the mark will be made known. In that day will these things be known.

The early church leader Irenaeus gave us some words to consider when it comes to speculating who the antichrist is (we have already discussed this) but with the image and the mark of the beast mentioned the antichrist is seen again, *“It is therefore more certain, and less hazardous, to await the fulfilment of the prophecy, than to be making*

surmises, and casting about for any names that may present themselves, inasmuch as many names can be found possessing the number mentioned.”

Rev. 14:1-5: *“Then I looked, and behold, on Zion stood the Lamb and with Him 144,000 who had His name and His Father’s name written on their foreheads. And I heard...”*

- Rev. 14 is still part of the interlude, describing certain events and scenes that take place during the tribulation period. Some believe vs. 1 is the end of the tribulation and the beginning of the millennium. That would be my view.
- It would be a picture of God’s faithfulness to His people (see Isa. 37:31-32).
- In vs. 1 note that these sealed ones of Israel have God’s name on them, in contrast to those who took the mark of the beast in Rev. 13. Some believe this is a heavenly scene, not an earthly one. Mt. Zion is Jerusalem, but some see this as preparation for the return of Christ from heaven.
- These noted in vs. 1 (144,000) seem to remain intact throughout the tribulation. None of them have been killed by the enemy. We know those who do not receive the mark of the beast or worship him will die, and there is the probability that some will make it through the tribulation who are believers.
- Vss. 2-3 refer to a choir in heaven singing a song that only the 144,000 know. Another view is that they, the 144,000, are in heaven singing this song.
- Vss. 4-5 talk about the character of the 144,000, who we met in Rev. 7.
- Whether this is a scene in heaven, the Second Coming or just prior to that time, it is hard to say. Or it could be a millennial scene, where Christ is in Jerusalem ruling and these sing a song to Him.