

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev. Chris Trinh

Things to Come. No.6

23rd April 2002

Days of the Pseudo-Christ

Scripture Readings: Revelation 13 and Daniel 7

Verse one is really the end of chapter twelve. The 'I stood' in the A.V. is a mistranslation of *histemi* and should read '... and he (the dragon of 12.17) stood on the seashore. This word is often used of 'setting up' Matthew 4.5, or 'appointment' Acts 1.23 & 17.31. This appointment is the appearance of a beast with ten horns and seven heads rising out of the sea. The appointment is not made by him but for him; he must await the time of the true God. In league with this beast he is to wage war. 12.17. What can we learn of this time so as to be prepared to faithfully trust and follow the Lord?

First, the Pseudo-Christ's Person.

He is but a person. He comes from the sea. The sea is symbolic for the peoples of the nations. See Revelation 17.15. He will have a place of leadership which he has taken by subtlety out of the hands of world rulers. See Revelation 17.7-14. The heads are established world powers. The horns are war lords, usurpers. We cannot yet identify these, but the last head identifies with imperial Rome. See Daniel chapter 7, especially from v24.

Second, the Pseudo Christ's Powers.

He does not have power in himself. All his power is given to him by the dragon. See v2, v5 twice and v7 twice. He will 'appear to' suffer death probably in a battle, and will be raised to life again. See v3&14. He will be active only 3½ years. See v5. He will be at war with God in heaven, and His people on earth. See v6&7. He will appear invincible all over the

world, although there will be many who will oppose him.

He will be opposed by many, especially those who have been washed in the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, and have already had their names entered into His Book of Life. Is your name there? Read v8-10 carefully. The powers of the beast are limited and derived. He is not omnipotent. He can be overcome. The key to this is in Revelation 14.12, but is limited to 'those who have an ear.' Is your ear tuned to the word of God? Do you hide His word in your heart?

Third, the Pseudo-Christ's Program.

Pseudo-Christ uses another to implement his programs; a second beast, called the False Prophet, who is to rise out of the earth. The symbolism used suggests an origin of the establishment, of culture and civilised government. He is also an emerging power, but not a 'cowboy' like the first

beast. He appears to have the gentleness of a lamb but the philosophy and vocabulary of the dragon. See v11&12.

He is Pseudo-Christ's hit man, forcing men to give homage to him. See v12. He performs miracles to force his will on others, even like those of Elijah. See 1 Kings 18.38. These acts are intended to get others to cooperate. He commands men to make an image of the Pseudo Christ to be worshipped, like Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 3, which will be set up in the Jewish temple in Jerusalem and possibly other shrines. See the words of Jesus, Matthew 24.15.

He will animate the image to give instruction for those who refuse to obey him to be slain. V15.

He will control the supply channels of the necessities of life to exclude those who are not included on his data base. See v16&17.

Fourth, the dragon, Pseudo-Christ, and the False Prophet, at the end of the period allotted to them are destroyed by the judgment of God and the coming again of the Lord Jesus as King of Kings to establish His kingdom of genuine righteousness. See Revelation 14. Chapters 12, 13 and 14 should be read together and with 2 Thessalonians 2.1-12, an overview of these events.

Finally, Some Considerations.

The power of these beasts is the evil spirits from the pit of Satan. See Revelation 16.13

The 'mark' of the beast The Greek word is *charagma* and means 'to notch, engrave or imprint' and was used of the Roman emperor's seal impression on documents, coins and the like. Modern technology makes such a system universally possible. This number will be understood by those who are there at that time.

Will the Church go through this time of great tribulation? Some great Bible scholars teach that the Lord will return and take the Church out of the world before the beast is revealed. Others see His coming as the one great event which will end the reign of the beast. Which is correct? I urge you to respect those who may see things differently, then take your teaching from your own simple reading of the bible. Read each passage just for what it does say. Ask the Holy Spirit to open each passage to you. Don't be swayed by people's opinion. Take your time, because God is not in a hurry. God's word is true. The Holy Spirit can be trusted.

Ask your self and God, how then should I respond? Am I ready for the things that are coming as this age draws to a close? Am I ready to meet Jesus Christ when He comes? That is the big question, and its answer is greater still.

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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