

## **Revelation 13**

Good morning, church.

I am so happy to with you all this morning on this wonderful Lord's Day.

This morning we are going to continue our verse-by-verse study of the Book of Revelation.

We have come to the very important chapter 13.

Now, in the beginning of our study, I explained that we will push the limits in where we go to understand these incredibly important details found in Revelation.

This morning, perhaps we will go a little past your comfort zone.

This chapter in Revelation pieces together many of the vital characters of the Tribulation.

The prophet Daniel had much to say about this false christ in his writings, and Jesus made mention of the abomination he will bring, and even the Apostle Paul wrote about this Man of Sin.

Here in John's vision we will get some crucial details into understanding Satan's false trinity.

Satan from the very beginning has desired that God's prized creation, mankind, would turn their worship toward himself.

He has worked diligently in his endeavor, but has always come up short in his pursuit.

This morning we will look into a time of history known as the Tribulation period, a time when the Church has been removed from the earth and that which restrains has been raptured into heaven.

And Satan through his son of perdition will finally achieve this worldwide worship from the earth-dwellers.

Satan will reach the zenith of his power during this time, and will enjoy this brief reign until after the seven-year period allotted by God's Holy Scriptures is up, then the True King will come and dethrone and imprison the dragon.

Satan's followers will be destroyed by the Sword that comes from the Mouth of the King of kings, and Lord of lords.

And this morning the two that Satan uses to captivate the world will be before us.

So let us pray before we get into it...

Remember John is now in a break in the chronological timeline, he is receiving visions that are parenthetical now, until we get to the Bowl judgments, until then we will be in this series of detailed visions.

Last time, in Chapter 12, John's vision was heavenward, until that serpent of old was cast to this earth once and for all, and John began to describe Satan's work here on earth.

In this next parenthetical section John's vision remains on Satan's work here on earth.

He will now describe the first beast, the central character of the tribulation.

### **The Beast from the Sea**

13:1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. 2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

Now, John here is standing on the sand at the edge of the sea.

Some manuscripts say 'He saw,' referring to the dragon of chapter 12.

But we will follow the Authorized Version and go with 'I saw.'

He sees a dreadful looking beast come up out of the sea.

This symbolic beast has seven heads, with ten horns seen with crowns on them; the seven heads carried a blasphemous name upon them.

John describes 3 animals making up this one beast.

Now in verse two, we see this symbol makes up a man and his kingdom, that Satan has granted to him.

Now to understand all of this imagery, once again we need to use the Bible to make sense of it all.

Now, I find it fascinating from God's viewpoint, God is looking at this man here, yet He does not view him as a man created in His own image.

He describes a terrible animal, in the visage of Satan.

Remember the description of Satan in the last chapter... **Rev 12:3 behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.**

This vision here in Chapter 13 is of a man and his satanic empire.

This beast bears similar marks of the dragon but is altogether separate.

The dragon had seven complete crowns, whereas his beast has ten.

His description is also made up of that last world empire which will be a revived Roman Empire as described in Daniel 7.

The ten horns speak to power and strength, and represent ten kingdoms, or what we will refer to as the revived Roman Empire.

It seems as though this beast will be the leader of this new revived Empire.

Ten crowns were on its horns symbolizing governing authority or rule.

And here this beast coming from the sea, carries Satan's symbols, as he comes in the power of Satan.

John Walvoord explains here, "The fact that the beast rises out of the sea is taken by many to indicate that he comes from the great mass of humanity, namely the Gentile powers of the world. Others take it as a reference to the Mediterranean, namely, that the beast will arise from the Mediterranean area. Probably both are true..."

Chuck Smith simply clarifies, “In the Scriptures, the sea is used symbolically of the nations.”

David Guzik, has the preferable viewpoint. “ Many people today love **the sea**, but as a whole Jewish people in Biblical times regarded the sea as a wild, untamed, frightening place... Because ancient Israel was wary of **the sea**, it was a figure of evil and chaos that seemed to resist God, though the resistance was unsuccessful

P s 89:8-9 illustrates this for us...

8 O Lord God of hosts,

Who is mighty like You, O Lord?

Your faithfulness also surrounds You.

9 You rule the raging of the sea;

When its waves rise, You still them.

Remember the last time we saw this world leader, we identified him as the Antichrist; he was a man of peace, who is able to conquer the world with peaceful persuasion at first.

John saw in **Rev 6:2** a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

He will come out of the chaos of this world, and bring a temporary false peace.

We see also the beast is a blasphemer, who speaks against God.

No longer is Satan using deception to lead people away from God, but is now brazenly opposing God through his confident puppet here on earth.

Now we will find that the prophet Daniel, who wrote his vision between 600 to 700 years prior to John's Revelation, Daniel really is the key to much of this.

In Daniel's vision he saw **Dan 7:3** And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

Daniel saw four empires each different from the other, they are identified each by an animal, the first was a lion, representing the Babylonian Kingdom.

The second beast in Daniel 7 is a bear, which was the Medo-Persian Empire, which destroyed the first empire.

Then came the leopard, which was headed up by Alexander the Great who conquered swiftly with his Grecian Army, then came the final beast, it was the most vicious and Daniel describes this fourth beast this way.

Dan 7:7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

And Daniel was speaking of the Roman Empire, Notice it had ten horns.

So Daniel was looking forward in history toward these empires, and John here is looking back, so he describes them in reverse order.

But this beast that comes out of the sea, here is made up of the three previous conquered empires.

The fourth is not mentioned because the beast is the fourth revived.

This is how we conclude the final world empire will be the Roman Empire revived, United Confederacy in Europe.

Satan gives all of his power and authority, the same of which he offered to Jesus, if Jesus just bi-passed the cross and bowed and worshipped Satan.

This final ruler will take all that Satan has to offer.

And it seems as though Satan actually possesses this man.

Now we will see this Antichrist's deception and manipulation, and his copycat ways of the real Christ.

3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. 4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast;

and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

There are countless viewpoints on the interpretation of these verses.

David Guzik makes mention of the two most prominent...

"Some who see the beast not as a man but as a government see this as the revival of the Roman Empire, fulfilling Daniel 7. In this perspective, the Roman Empire has been "dead" but will again be "revived," and the world will marvel. Yet the most natural way to understand John's words in Revelation 13 make us believe that he speaks of a man who will be **mortally wounded** and then **healed**. The man will lead a revived Roman Empire, and his personality will dominate it - yet he and the empire are not exactly the same."

John Walvoord prefers to see this as the Revived Roman Empire

The Roman Empire was never truly conquered, but was mortally wounded, and will once again be revived.

Both views have their strengths and weakness, they do not necessarily have to be mutually exclusive, this world leader can receive this wound, and his miraculous healing is the very event that unifies this faded empire.

The sad part about these verses is the world already witnessed a resurrection, and for the most part ridiculed and mocked the Messiah who conquered death.

And here this ghastly prince, this blasphemous man is deceitfully healed and the world rejoices.

Notice at this point they are not worshipping demonic pagan gods; they are openly worshipping Satan himself, who has given the power to his prodigy.

The world embraces this copycat production, because they love this world, and the things of this world, the love of the Father is not in them.

They embrace and hold onto the lie, and worship that rebellious angel Lucifer.

This is the high moment of Satan's career and legacy; this is all he has ever wanted.

His dream is fulfilled, that fallen Cherub who said in his heart.

Isa 14:13-14 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

He through this Man of Sin gets much of what he hoped for only here on earth...

The world marvels at the accomplishments of the beast, as he accomplished what every evil ruler has dreamed of since Nimrod ruled in Babel.

The world is conquered by the beast. Nebuchadnezzar, Caesar, Alexander, Napoleon, Mussolini, Hitler, and all who aspired to attain this final objective of world conquest failed to complete this task.

We read next...

5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. 6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. 7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

We see here his main ministry is to speak great things and blasphemies against God, and His Holy Name, and even His heavenly tabernacle, and those saints who are in heaven.

We see again a reference to 42 months or the last three and half years of the tribulation, that Jesus called the Great Tribulation.

There will be a moment in the midpoint of the Tribulation where the Antichrist, this beast will enter into the Holy Temple of God, and declare himself as god.

He will turn vehemently against Jewish and Gentile believers.

And here we read, in his great persecution God allows him to prevail against the saints here on earth.

The Greatest persecution against Truth will come upon those saints who have come to faith in Jesus in the Tribulation.

Notice verse 8 separates humanity into two groups, those who oppose God, and those who are written into the Book of Life.

From Genesis on we read of only two groups of people, Saints and Aints, Redeemed and unbeliever, Saved and Unsaved, yet the world tries to separate us into so many diverse groups.

But biblically, there are only those who are Born-again through faith, and earth dwellers, who are consumed with the world and the cares of this world.

Now the beast will oppose everything associated with Christ.

And remember John spoke to this in his Epistle.

**1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.**

You see his blasphemous message is already being proclaimed in our schools and colleges, in our movies, in our TV shows, by our government, the antichrist's message is already building and preparing this world for his inauguration.

Understand this worlds system is all building up to the revealing of this man.

And we often fail to realize it is all designed to lead up to the awe of this man, who will captivate the world.

He will present such a strong delusion that when he blasphemes the Lord God, the world will join in with his treacherous chorus.

Understand John has been given a Revelation of the future and where this all headed, and we must understand the world we live in is built on deceit and lies.

It is the greatest cover-up in history, and one day the world will fully reject the risen Christ and embrace this imitator.

And the world is warned next...

9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10 He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Notice firstly here another evidence that the church at this point is in glory, the rapture has taken place, for this dialogue has been heard before, but at this point in the Revelation it is missing a former phrase we heard in the letters to the church.

Where we heard over and over again...

**Rev 2:11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

Now with the restraining force of the Church out of the picture, the address and warning goes to the whole world that is under the rule of this most powerful dictator.

Verse 10 tells us those who are captivated by the beast and his ways and help him in his endeavors to lead into captivity and kill with a sword, those people will be without guilt.

They are accountable to believing the lie over truth, God has left the world with impressive witnesses during this time.

These rejecters of truth are the persecutors of those found patiently enduring with faith until Shiloh comes or death overtakes them.

Again only two options in the Great Tribulation, faith in Jesus, or convinced by the beast to reject truth.

For those who are on the earth at that time they will have this warning, and they will be accountable to the choice they make, either to suffer for Christ, or to live against Christ.

The Beast, the Antichrist, the Little Horn, the Man of Sin, the Son of Perdition, is given his prominent place here in the Revelation, and next John will see the second character in this act.

### **The Beast from the Earth**

11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. 12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

Notice here another beast like the other one, but separate from him.

This is not the same beast; it is another man, who is described as have two horns like a lamb.

This may denote the fact that he has authority in two realms of influence, that of religion and politics.

He is deceptive in his appearance, he seems to have a mild demeanor like a lamb, but his true nature comes out when he speaks.

His words are satanic and he uses his cunning words to draw the worship of the world toward the first beast.

Now, I would like to insert a little side note, that really paints the true picture of the tribulation and the scale of the Beast's power.

Many teachers explain these events are isolated to the Middle East, and all their interpretation comes from that background.

But this chapter is so vitally important, because over and over again it points out the whole world is under the control of this satanic emperor and his empire.

And here this second beast is able to sway the people of the earth to worship the first beast.

This second beast is identified clearly for us in later parts of Revelation. In Revelation 16:13 we see he is the third part of this false trinity.

**Rev 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.**

He is the counterfeit holy spirit, whereas the Holy Spirit today draws humanity to worship Jesus the Christ, this false prophet will draw the earth dwellers to worship the Antichrist.

Remember the Antichrist comes into power with a deceptive peace out of chaos, he is able to reinstate the Temple worship in Jerusalem, and he brings ecumenicalism to its climax as all religions worship their gods in unity.

The climax of the coexist movement will take place in the first half of the tribulation.

We will even see in later weeks, a woman riding the beast, as this corrupt church mingles with this satanic system.

This false prophet will use the corrupt woman, until he needs her no more, and at the midpoint of the tribulation, the abomination of desolation will be set up in the One True God's temple, and all worship will be turned toward the beast and his image, as we will see in a moment.

It is interesting that Satan, who has desired from his earlier rebellion to be worshipped as God, sets up his false worship in the Temple of God.

He will finally be worshipped as a god, through his false son of perdition.

This second beast that comes out of the earth is second to the first beast, who John will continually point out was mortally wounded and healed.

He comes from a different place altogether, some prefer to say this is indicating the false prophet will come out of Israel.

Now, there are many viewpoints as to which religion will usher in the last false religion.

Many who hold to the viewpoint that this vision is limited to the Middle East suggest Islam is the final false religion that will bring usher in the Antichrist.

And especially when ISIS was on the rise, and using similar methods to what we see happening in the tribulation.

But now ISIS is on the run, well perhaps Turkey will resurrect the Ottoman Empire, and that will be the final Islamic Empire?

Others suggest the Catholic Church is the final system that will usher in the Antichrist, and the Pope is perhaps this Man of Sin or even the false prophet.

May I suggest, that none of these will be the final apostate religion.

We see very clearly, all religion will be done away with, and all worship will be turned to this false christ.

It will be a religion like this world has never seen before, centered on a man we do not know yet.

Now the Antichrist may be alive today, even with the talk of the New Temple being built, perhaps he will be instrumental in the development of this, before the tribulation begins.

He very well could be at work right now in the world, that is the man, not just his system.

But his revealing and rise to world dominance cannot come until that which restrains him is out of the way, and the church is raptured.

Remember he arises to power out of chaos,

There will be much chaos after the Rapture of the church as the world tries to make sense of it all.

Many suggest that the Ezekiel 38 and 39 War of Gog and Magog might even be the chaos he uses to emerge as the world's peacemaker.

However, it happens, we see a point, more precisely at the midpoint of the tribulation, where this second beast, the false prophet is able to turn all of the world's worship toward the first beast and Satan.

Now remember the Two Witnesses and their ministry, and we see here the direct counterfeit move of this man.

He is like Pharaoh's magicians, who try to match Moses sign for sign and wonder for wonder.

And he deceives many...

13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

Now Jesus warned on the Olivet Discourse **Matt 24:24-25 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand.**

And here is the false prophet deceiving the earth dwellers into this worship of Satan's messiah.

Remember when Jesus walked the earth the Jewish leaders asked for a sign but Jesus refused.

Here Satan's program grants humanities request for deceptive signs.

They choose in their rebellion to totally disregard God's agenda of trying to bring humanity back to Himself, and instead choose to remain captivated by all that this devil-worship consist of.

And we know that the greatest sign will be "the abomination of desolation" mention by both Daniel and our Lord Jesus.

The Apostle Paul speaks in detail of this time that Satan is allowed to work his greatest deception.

Paul speaks about the time immediately after the Rapture. He says...

**2 Thess. 2:7-12** For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the

brightness of His coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Understand that whatever this great delusion is, that it will be so overwhelming that people will embrace it with no questions asked.

The only people who will see through this deception are the followers of Jesus Christ, it is so strong, yet if it were possible it could even deceive the Elect.

I believe as Paul says here the mystery of the lawlessness is already at work.

And everything is building to a moment and event, that will be so incredible, the world will fall headlong after this ominous beast.

I believe as this master delusion is being staged and set up for; humanities hearts are being primed and pumped to accept whatever it is.

The movie industry, academia, and secular culture are all under the sway of this lawlessness.

And whatever this great sign and wonder is, I imagine something from out of our world will be revealed, that it will cause humanity to forsake all other beliefs and by the time we get to the midpoint of the tribulation, the Jews final sign will be seen as the beast presents himself as god.

And the abomination of desolation will be this image built in the likeness of the beast, and this false prophet will be given power to bring life and personality to an otherwise lifeless idol.

Consider what was said in verse 14

telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast

The whole world will be convinced to take part in making the image of the beast.

15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

Now believers in the One True God throughout the ages we have mocked idol worship.

The Psalmist said in our yearly reading Yesterday...

Ps 135:15-18 The idols of the nations are silver and gold, The work of men's hands. 16 They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; 17 They have ears, but they do not hear; Nor is there any breath in their mouths.

18 Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.

These manmade idols are a mockery to anyone with common sense.

But this image here, this abomination that will be centered in the Temple at Jerusalem is altogether different.

Now for the last 2000 years this scene here seemed too far out there to be anything short of impossible.

But even a statue are lifeless object coming to life, does not solve the problem of this object with personality, and what it is able to do to those who would not worship the image of the beast.

How can an idol go throughout the earth in such a way, to kill?

I have a suggestion, and this kind of thing is not so far out there anymore!

[Play video of AI Robot Sofia](#)

The world has created the system for this idols power, with the internet and technology.

Now, here, perhaps part of the great delusion, this is being presented as a morally good path.

AI, Artificial Intelligence can go throughout the world and help humanity.

Now if man was morally good and had pure motives then that might be plausible.

Nuclear energy was something that started out as good energy for humanity.

But what did man do, they took those concepts, and created weapons capable of destroying the world many time over.

Man is inherently wicked to the core, and there is no pure motive within him.

Vladimir Putin this year, a couple months ago, probably spoke more honestly about where all of this is headed than anyone else.

1 Sep, 2017 RT News reported *“Artificial intelligence is the future, not only for Russia, but for all humankind. It comes with colossal opportunities, but also threats that are difficult to predict. Whoever becomes the leader in this sphere will become the ruler of the world,”* Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

Could this walking talking image of the beast not be the means to the greatest persecution against the saints ever seen on earth?

As this AI robot, through technology controls precision weapons that are designed to kill those who do not have a special mark on them?

Listen, our government already torments our enemies with drones.

Our enemy many times does not even know how to hide or where danger is coming from as these smart drones take out with great precision enemy targets.

It is not crazy talk anymore, it is an easy reality.

Perhaps this mark of the beast is a computer chip that can be scanned, that acknowledges your commitment and worship to the beast and his system.

We see next the details of this mark...

16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell

except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Now, I listened to a Chuck Smith teaching from the 80's.

It was when debit cards were being more readily available from the banks.

People were moving away from check writing, Chuck Smith in the 80's was convinced that had to do with the mark of the beast.

Well, today we have moved way beyond debit cards and credit cards.

Jess got me this watch for Christmas and it has the capability to pay at the register of most stores.

Technology has advanced the end times agenda by leaps and bounds just in a matter of decades.

### Video Clip

Now, I am not saying this is the mark of the beast; however, the technology is there for his system to easily come into play.

Now remember God has sealed many of his followers for divine protection, and here the copycat deceiver, Satan sets up a similar program.

The sealed evangelist were divinely protected from the realities of God's Wrath being poured out on the earth.

And here Satan marks those who will be spared from his fury.

Now John next gives the infamous number of the beast.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

Now many very smart men have tried to solve this riddle here, and almost all commentators disagree on what this number is.

I think the simplest understanding is the best for us.

Man was created on the sixth day, making the number six the number of man.

It is one number short of perfection, or seven.

Putting all the mystical calculations and guesses aside, we can only conclude no one knows for sure what this mark is.

I think if you play with these numbers long enough you make them mean anything.

However, three sixes here perhaps more easily represents the 'satanic trinity' we have before us in the tribulation.

Satan, the beast, and this false prophet.

Whatever this number is, it has been associated with nothing but evil since John wrote it down.

It is the mark of the sealed Satanist, which will make up the majority of humanity in the tribulation.

And whoever receives this mysterious mark will find their decision is final.

As the Nephilim or mutant species of the Old Testament found no Grace but only judgment, so too will those who receive the mark, they are marked for judgment.

The Devil and his two pawns are finally let loose, with no restraints from God, and this empire of evil covers the whole world.

The only way to be free of the torment of this final system, is to join in its hatred of Truth, and worship Satan.

This is beyond Islam, or the Catholic Church here as so many predict, which might only be platforms the beast uses to get his power.

This is a worldwide religion that whole heartily worships the devil and the beast.

This delusion with false signs and wonders will so shake the foundations of all the world's religions that they will all denounce their faith to follow this false christ and take his mark upon themselves.

This is on a worldwide scale, the racist will throw down his swastika, the Muslim radical will remove his green armband, the catholic will rid himself of his rosary beads, and all the millions of symbols that divide

humanity will be done away with to hail this world dictator.

Now please understand clearly what is happening in the world right now, see through the smoke and mirrors of Satan's work.

He is building and fashioning this world for this moment in history.

He is molding minds, captivating hearts and souls.

Now, we are closer than ever, today, we see this world is readied for this Man of Sin.

And what is to be expected of the church in the last days before the Tribulation starts, and the Great Day of the Lord begins?

Will there be Revival, I will hope so until I can hope no more, the Bible is not clear if there will be a Revival before this time, we know there will be a revival in the tribulation, but what is said of our dispensation actually speaks to the opposite.

2 Thess. 2:3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first,

I am holding out for one last revival, one last move of the Holy Spirit before the Rapture of the church.

However, the scriptures explain another reality.

This falling away here is *apostasia* or in the English apostasy or defection away from truth.

And this is what will mark the church of the last days, the Laodicean church, that church will march right into the tribulation not aware or concerned with their eternity.

The church of the last days will be marked by entertainment, theatrics, light shows, and so much fluff and nonsense.

The church of the last days will be rich, able to do anything and go anywhere, they will have so much money, they build great buildings, and live in luxury.

The church of the last days before the great tribulation will be less concerned about its sin before a Holy God,

and more concerned with maintaining their comfort in this life.

They will heap up teachers for themselves, that make allowance for them to sit comfortably in this world.

The teachers will give them motivational speeches; they will give pep talks, or high-energy entertaining appeals that are full of nothing but hot air.

The church of the last days will put the Word of God on the shelf, and stay far away from teaching about things like hell, God's Holy Wrath, and Prophecy will be mocked.

Books like Revelation, Jude, and Daniel, will be skipped over for the sake of not scaring the sheep.

Sections of Jesus' teachings will be disregarded and cherry-picked as not to offend.

If the Word of God is opened it is only to highlight a verse that supports the preacher's talking points.

The pulpits of the last day's church will carefully craft their sermons to scratch itching ears.

And there will be famine in the land, not of food, but of the Word of God.

Church, understand this this morning, the evidence of the soon rapture of the church, is the apostasy, or falling away from truth.

And if you open your eyes, we are right in the midst of this falling away.

The church has been suppressed, Christians no longer send their children to the mission field, but success and careers have motivated life choices.

We wonder why our children are leaving the church in droves, but we immerse them in the system of antichrist, and they are sucked away into the rat race of life.

We have trained them this world is all that matters, we give them hours of Satan's cartoons and TV shows, we give them hours upon hours of Satan's movies, and we give them Satan's education system.

We have taught them that church, and anything Jesus is second to our secular schedule, and then we cry out to the Lord when they are adults and lost in the world.

We have taught them Satan's ways.

They have been taught faithfully to work hard for this world, to find their success in this world because the witness and power of the church was dismal in comparison the glamour of this satanic system.

You see there will be religion in Satan's system, but it will be void of Christ.

The Laodicean church today is made up of religious earth dwellers who have lost their sight of eternity, and live solely for this life.

I was at the movies Friday night, seeing the new Star Wars, and I saw a youth leader from another church having a beer.

I knew the person's heart had I confronted them; they would have decried "It's my liberty"

And the last days church totally forsakes their witness for the sake of their liberty.

That person not understanding one of their confused youth will see that beer and one day justify their alcoholism because they too have their liberty.

It is a mockery, because the last day's church will be found of people who love themselves more than their witness for Jesus Christ.

They will be lovers of themselves, without self-control. And understand this is all playing into the grand delusion of the enemy.

The 2 Witnesses will stand with great wonder and terrible signs in the tribulation, but Satan will counter their every move with his own working through the false prophet.

The earth dwellers of tribulation will look back to the churches last witness before the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord was upon them, and there will be little witness for them to cling to.

They will see these 2 Witness's wonders and then the false prophet's wonders and they will question the God who the church failed to live for in the last days.

Church understand something this morning, we are only here for a blink in time, our story will soon be over, if our pursuit is for this world we are running amiss, and we are caught up in the delusion of the antichristian system.

May these things not be said of us, may we be the faithful little church of Philadelphia, who clung to God's Word, and held on to its every truth, and obeyed it at all costs.

May we disciple our children to use their lives for the glory of God, not the successes of their own achievements.

May we teach an unwavering commitment to the things of Jesus Christ.

May we show that our yes is yes and our no is no, may we be people of our word.

Trustworthy, faithful, good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us.

You know when Jess and I gave our lives to the Lord. We knew very little about Christian living.

I clung very close to my father's example he gave to me growing up.

My dad was committed to Jesus in every aspect of his life.

I remembered my dad served in the church faithfully, so Jess and I started serving immediately.

She learned the Old Testament as she taught it to 3-5 year old children.

I remembered all of my father's stories of him sharing the Lord with his co-workers, so I started testifying at work to my co-workers.

I remember my dad helping the needy, and the down and out, so Jess and I looked who we could help in the Name of Christ.

I remembered growing up, everything in our life came second to Jesus and the ministry.

So Jess and I planned our life around the church calendar.

I remember my father faithfully gave to the work of the Lord, even when it was tough on our family.

So Jess and I began to give faithfully to the work of the Lord.

Every morning that I can remember growing up, my father would grab a huge bowl of cereal, and his Bible, and every morning that man read his Bible.

So when Jess and I gave our lives to Jesus, I followed my father's example, and still to this day I read my Bible every morning.

I remember watching my father, leave his secular job to join the ministry, as God called him, he obeyed.

When it was confirmed through my wife that I was called into the ministry, we forsook our life and stepped out in faith.

You see my father set such an example for me, he was a faithful witness to what following Jesus looked like, there was no confusion for me when my eyes were open.

I pray I can be half the godly man my father was for my kids.

I wonder what those eyes looking at you everyday see?

Your children? Your co-workers? Your loved ones?

Do they see your wholehearted commitment to the things of Jesus Christ or do they see compromise?

Do they see Jesus is first, or do you just fit him in where it is convenient?

Do they see you pursuing the program of Christ, or you caught up in the agenda of the antichrist?

Listen, this morning the scriptures exposed the scheme of Satan, the deception that is about us.

We are without excuse.

Now, if you have found this morning, that you are caught up in the pursuit of the lie, understand the wonderful thing about our dispensation that is different from all others.

This Church Era, this time of Grace, is it is a one-step program back to the right track.

You can repent, and receive prayer this morning.

The Elders and Pastors will be up here afterward to pray with you, to help minister to you, and get you back on the right track.

I would also like to mention, we are seeing miracles take place from this prayer time after church.

Prodigals are coming home, people are being healed, and jobs are being found.

One mother is now rejoicing this morning because of her faithful prayers, her prodigal is home now.

He has left the deception he was ensnared in, and a mother's heart is rejoicing at her prayers being answered.

You see this altar is a battleground, come up this morning and fight for those unsaved loved ones in your life.

Pray that the scales would be removed, the blinders lifted, and that hearts would be open.

Church there is not much time left, as we saw this morning we are getting closer than ever, we are a long way away from the debit card.

The system is really in place, all that is left, is for Christ to come for His church.

I pray, in these final hours, our witness would remain steadfast in the tumultuous times we live, and that we would be bolder in our witness for Jesus Christ.

Amen?