

Thing 1 & Thing 2

I. Slide1,2 Intro: Thing 1 & Thing 2

- A. If you can control *political, economic & religious power* you have a formula for controlling the world. [like Nebuchadnezzar & his gold image, locally in his region]
1. Back in John's day, in the Roman Empire, it was *the cult of emperor worship*. [people were forced to sacrifice to an image of the emperor]
 2. Throughout history *other beasts* have raised their ugly heads. **But none compare to the one to come.**
- B. Slide3 **A myth** is propagated in Russia, where in Red Square/Moscow, sits a beautiful Cathedral called **St. Basils**. The story goes that **Ivan the IV/the terrible** [mid 1500's] had an architect (*Post-nik Yakov-lev*) build the most beautiful Cathedral in the world. When he was done building it Ivan asked the architect if he could build one more beautiful. He thought about it & said, *yes I think I could!* [So, Ivan had his eyes put out, so he'd never be able to build 1 better]
1. Ivan wanted this Cathedral to be *the worlds Final & Greatest Masterpiece*.
 - a) Chapter 13 is **satan's Final & Greatest Masterpiece...the man of sin, the vile person, the son of perdition, the beast, Antichrist, His Super Leader.**
 2. He would be the Tyrant of Tyrants - Dictator of all Dictators.
 3. **He would be:** *Alex the Great, Nero, Genghis Khan, Ivan the Terrible, Lenin, Mussolini, Ceausescu, Hitler & Osama bin laden* all in one.
 4. Jesus said, *I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.* Jn. 5:43
 5. Anti-Christ could say, *If you have seen me, you've seen my father.*
- C. **Copycat** – Remember copying someone's every movement...*until you annoyed them?*
1. Satan is the ultimate copycat. Nothing seems to be *original* with him.
 2. Here is Satan's imitation of the *Incarnation, death, & resurrection of Jesus.*

II. Slide4a **THING 1 - BEAST #1 The Antichrist (1-10)** *anti*-against but also instead of

- A. (1) God describes him here...not as *a man made in the image of God*, but as *a wild animal under the control of Satan*.
1. **The world** will worship him as **a god**, **Heaven** sees him as **a beast**.
- B. **Slide4b Symbols help the writer**: *emphasize a point, move I to action, help the memory, are effective in illustrating, & are useful in making the unfamiliar, familiar*.
- C. **Sea** - represents turmoil & chaos. Defined in 17:15. He comes out of the Gentile Nations.
- D. **7 heads** - 7 mountains/hills in 17:9. [Rome was built on 7 hills] **Also**, represent 7 kings in 17:10.
- E. **10 Horns** - 10 Kingdoms.
1. Dan.7:24 *The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones.*
 2. **Some** have speculated it was **Rome** from the 7 hills in 17:9. **Others** the European Union. **And** lately the possibility of 10 Islamic countries coming together.
- F. **A blasphemous name** - probably like *the divine titles* the Roman Emperors used for themselves. (eg. *Domitian*, our Lord & God)
- G. (2) **Leopard, Bear, & Lion** - Point us to Daniels Dream in ch.7 (4 beasts coming up from sea)
1. Each represents a World Empire [**Lion/babylon. Bear/medo-persia. Leopard/greece. Beast/rome or whoever is the end political power**].
 - a) **John saw them in reverse order than Dan**. As **John** was looking Back in history, **Dan** forward.
- H. **Power, Throne, & Authority** - He is a man (18), Yet he is energized by Satan himself (Dragon). [**The only other to be Satan possessed?** Judas]
1. He started out as a peacemaker (whitehorse), settled the Israeli/Arab problem by making a cov w/the Jews for 7 yrs, allowed them to build the Temple & reinstate religious ritual, then, midway breaks the cov, stops the ceremonies, & sets himself up as god in the Temple.
 2. This man accepts the offer Satan gave to Jesus.
 - a) Mt. 4:8-9 *the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, **All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.***

- I. **Slide5a** Quick Questionnaire, *who's side are you on?*
1. Do you ever exercise your own power & not rely on God's? Do you ever try to be your own boss? Do you ever try to have your own way? **Slide5b** If so, then welcome to *Team Antichrist* when you do.
- J. (3) **A Copycat Death & Res?** [thus appearing to be all-powerful]
1. **The whole earth was astonished and followed** - This should have been the response to Christ's res. **Instead** the beast receives this *attention & response*.
 2. The beasts wound was a *parody* of the Lamb's wound.
- K. (4) His Chief Aim, *to be Worshiped* (to be like God).
1. **By worshiping the beast they're worshiping Satan.**
- L. **Who is like the beast** – A copy cat of Michael who said, *who is like God?*
- M. **Note his Military Might** - No one was able to make war w/him.
- N. (5,6) **Words** - Most all Dictators rose to power by controlling people w/*their words*.
1. Hitler mesmerized huge crowds w/his speeches.
- O. **Given** (2x's) - Remember the beasts authority is *delegated*, **not inherent**.
- P. **Slide6** *Whose side are you on?*
1. Do you ever have a mouth of Boasting? Do you ever have a mouth of Blasphemies?
- Q. (7) Quiet a job description here.
- R. We have seen martyrs in heaven, but not a lot was said **how** they got there.
- S. **God permits this?** **Yes**, it's part of His plan.
1. Heb.11:35 *...others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.*
 2. In every age, Gods people have had to face some Satanic Beast.
 3. **Some are hunted some are killed** **but** all will enter God's presence **perfected & purified** by *the blood of the Lamb*.
- T. **Slide7** *Who's side you on?*
1. Do you ever make war w/other saints?
- U. (8) **The book of Life** – a heavenly ledger (see 17:8).

1. Like Eph.1:4 *He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world.*

V. Slide8 (10) ESV *If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.*

W. Slide9 Note 3 things:

1. If the Christian Faith means imprisonment, the Christian must w/o murmuring accept it.

2. Christianity mustn't be defended by force [not speaking of one's personal/family self-defense, nor even nationally...but *Christianity*]

a) It's a paradox to defend *the gospel of the Love of God*, by using *the Violence of man*.

3. There are 2 weapons which the Christian can use:

a) (1) *Patience* - not just *passively enduring*, but courageously accepting the worst that life can do & turning it into *glory*.

(1) Ps.37:7-9 *Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret, it only causes harm. For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth.*

b) (2) *Faith* (faithfulness) - *fidelity which will never waver* in its devotion to its Master.

(1) George Muller said, *Trials, obstacles, difficulties, & sometimes defeats, are the very food of faith.*

(2) On the mantel of *Hinds Head Hotel* in London it said,
Fear knocked at the door. Faith answered. No one was there.

X. Slide10 Simple Strategies of Satan:

1. *Neutralize or paralyze* the churches witness from *within*.

2. *Poisonous persecution* from *without*.

3. *Smother its witness* by giving it *great popularity*.

4. *Disturb the unity* of the church w/discord and division.

5. Undermine the church through bad teaching.

III. Slide11a **THING 2 - BEAST #2 The False Prophet (11-18)**

- A. (11) Coming up from the earth - This may be a *parody* on the Lamb, who rose from **the earth** at the resurrection.
- B. Here we have *his disciple, groupie, #1 follower, or PR manager*.
- C. His wardrobe is...**a dragon in sheep's clothing**.
1. He's a **lamb** in appearance, **but** what comes out his mouth is *Satan inspired*.
- D. **Horns** = authority.
- E. He is also called **a False Prophet** in 16:13, 19:20, 20:10.
- F. Slide11b This completes (as some have called) *the Satanic Trinity*. (more copycat)
1. **Satan is the counterfeit Father** - *I will be like the most high*.
 2. **The antichrist is the counterfeit Christ** -
 3. **The false prophet is then the counterfeit HS** - the Holy Spirit's ministry was to point people to trust in Christ & worship Him.
 - a) **And** the false prophet is *the keeper of religion* – vs.12.
- G. (12) I bet he'll simply give the world the religion they seek. **A religion palatable & appealing**. Appealing to their lusts & appetites, it's the *I want to be happy Religion*.
- H. (13) **Great Signs** – What **Jesus** refused to do, *he gladly does*.
- I. Slide12 Humans have always been suckers for signs.
1. We've had the **Virgin Mary** appearing on a **tortilla's, toast, & tree shadows**. **Mother Theresa** is thought to have been seen in Tennessee **cinnamon rolls**.
 2. Based on the eagerness of the general population to put **faith** in *anything extraordinary*, it wouldn't take long for such a figure to accumulate a large following. (viral overnight)
 - a) He does the *fire* from the sky trick **&** the *make an idol talk* one.
- J. Slide13 (14) **To make an image to the beast** - In John's day, **images, busts, and statues** were set up throughout the empire in tribute to the deified emperor.
- K. (16) Maybe a copycat of the **Jewish Phylacteries**, worn on their left hand & forehead.

- L. (16) **A mark** - In the ancient world *religious branding* was a common way to display devotion to a particular deity. The Greek word *Xaragma* (meaning *mark, brand, stamp*) reminds us of the **imperial logo** on commercial documents, merchandise, and coinage.
1. *χάραγμα* is an engraved, etched, branded, or inscribed “mark” or “sign.” Closest to *the original sense* of *χαράσσω* (→ line 17 f.; 418, 3ff.) is the earliest example in Sophocles & Philo., where *χάραγμα* denotes *the bite of a snake*. Elsewhere the term means an “inscription,”. TDNT/Kittels
 2. **Right hand or on their forehead** - This may be a parody/satire of the seal that believers had (Rev 7:3; 14:1) or of the Israelites’ bearing God’s law.
- M. **Will they happily brand their bodies with his name?** People do today w/tattoos (mom, Gloria). We even *brand the back of our cars* w/**bumper stickers** of the leaders we like during Election time.
- N. (17) He not only controls the people thru **religious deceit** but now also their **Economy**.
1. When you combine *Political power, w/Economic power, & Religious power*, you have a formula for controlling the whole world.
 2. This took place at times during the Medieval times w/ the Roman Catholic Church. (not world wide but close) **People can’t last long w/o trade privileges**.
- O. (18) Gallons of ink have been spilled trying to figure out this one...**666**.
1. I can hear him sing, *Please to meet you Hope you guess my name. But what’s puzzling you is the nature of my game*. [Rolling Stones, 1968, Mick Jagger & Keith Richards]
 2. In both Heb. & Greek, letters = *numbers also* (called *Gematria*/from geometry)
 - a) If you work long enough on any name you can make it fit.
 3. **Wouldn’t we have benefited more from a physical description rather than a numeric one?**
 - a) 6’, brn eyes, salt & pepper hair, we could at least come up with a good suspect list.
 4. People have tried every *wicked, popular, & unpopular leader* who has come along. [Nero, many Popes, even Ronald Wilson Reagan, Gorbachev, Hitler, JFK, Henry Kissinger, Pope John Paul II, *even Barney*]
 5. Some have tied 666 with www. **If that’s true you, me & Al Gore are all in trouble**.
- P. **Can he be identified now?** If so, he’d be taken out immediately.

- Q. **Today numbers** are more important than **names** (as far as computers go it's all about 0's & 1's)
- R. If it's the end times, he'd be alive today.
- S. I believe at the right time (in the trib) he will then be easily identified.
- T. On the walls of Pompeii a lover wrote: *I love her whose # is 545.*
1. Thereby he at 1 & the same time **identified & concealed** his lover.
- U. Rabbi Jonathan, *Blasted be the bones of those who calculate the end, for when the calculated time comes & Messiah does not appear, people despair of His ever coming.*