

AN UNHOLY MARRIAGE

Revelation 13:11-18

Introduction:

- A. We have been told of the antichrist beast rising out of the sea of humanity -- or maybe death. 13:1 The antichrist is human being – an evil man.
- B. We have seen how the great dragon – Satan, the devil – has given the antichrist man power and great authority. 13:2
- C. We have seen how this great power would be exercised for the 3 and one half years – the last half the tribulation period. 13:5
- D. We have seen how the people of the world shall worship the antichrist. 13:4
- E. We have seen how the antichrist shall make war on the saints of God – those who refuse to worship the antichrist shall be killed. 13:7
- F. We are now given a closer view of what will be taking place during the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation period during the reign of the Antichrist.

I. LEARN THAT SOME TIME IN HIS REIGN THE ANTICHRIST WILL TAKE AN UNHOLY BRIDE.

- A. Verse 11 reveals a second beast rising up out of the earth.
- B. This beast is the false prophet who is a deceiver of men. He has the appearance of a lamb; but he speaks as a dragon.
- C. Jesus warned His church of this. *Beware of the false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.* Matthew 7:15
- D. Paul also warned the churches of the antichrist. Second Thessalonians 2:3-10
- E. The content of the text verses makes it quite evident that there will be a joining of the purpose and the power of the false prophet and the antichrist.
- F. Thus we see the uniting of the political power of the antichrist and the religious power of the false prophet – an unholy marriage.
- G. Religion has always held the strongest influence over the actions of man. In the dark ages the power of false religions drove the political power to destroy millions of true believers.

II. LEARN SOMETHING OF THE AWFUL POWER THE FALSE PROPHET SHALL EXERT OVER THE PEOPLE OF THE EARTH.

- A. Verse 12 reveals the false prophet forcing the people of the earth to worship the antichrist.
- B. Verses 13 and 14a reveal the great wonders performed by the false prophet, even to the calling fire down from heaven. By these he deceived many people.
- C. Verses 14, 15 reveal the making of an image of the antichrist. The false prophet gave life to the image and caused it to speak.
- D. The false prophet commanded the people to worship the image of the beast antichrist.

III. LEARN THAT THE FALSE PROPHET WILL MAKE WAR ON THE SAINTS OF GOD.

- A. Verse 15 points out that those who refused to worship the image will be condemned to death.**
- B. Verses 16 and 18 reveal the false prophet establishing control of the commerce of the nations. People were commanded to receive the mark 666 in their right hand or in their forehead.**
- C. People without the mark will not be able to buy and sell – thus they will be denied food.**
- D. At this point in time God's saints will be faced with death by sword or starvation.**

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. Have you made peace with God by asking His forgiveness and trusting His Son Jesus Christ to save you? If not, there will never be a better time than now.**
- B. Chapter 14 will reveal why God's saints need to stay alive during this awful time.**

