

INTRODUCTION

1. 'Recapitulation': repeats same truths while progressing to conclusion.
2. 2nd Bst - demonic activity concurrent with 1st Bst. 13:11-17 recapitulates v1-10
3. The role that false religion plays in Dragon's persecution of wmn. Rv 13:11-18

1st: A Lamb-like Liar - v11

1. Theocratic combination of State-Church authorities. 2ndBst *arises from earth*
2. *2 horns* [4 Bsts in Dan 7]; *like a lamb* = false Christ: looks like Jesus, but sounds like Dragon.
3. 2ndB is continually speaking throughout Church-Age: deceiving, enticing
 - i. Mt 7:15; 24:5, 11 - Jn 8:44 Pharisees; even Peter - Mt 16:16-23.
 - ii. Hendriksen [148] "This is, perhaps, the most difficult paragraph [13:11-18] in the entire book of Rv."

2nd: Proclaims the AntiChrist's False Religion and His Fake Resurrection - v12

1. 2ndBst also acts like counterfeit Elijah [v13]; false JnB to false Christ [v14]
 - i. A counterfeit verifies the authenticity of what it is counterfeiting. Satan counterfeits true religion.
 - ii. Knowledge of true religion protects us from false [Eph 4:21; 2Th 2:10]
2. 2ndBst is *authorized by 1stBst* - his *presence*. 1stBst exercises power of gov't; 2ndBst is all about propaganda. 1stBst captures body; 2ndBst captures mind.
3. Only true theocracy = OCov Israel. All other attempts to combine State & religion are dangerous. Is the church a theocracy? No, monarchy.

4. 2ndBst plays a religious role: *the false prophet* [Rv 16:13; 20:10] - 19:20
5. 2ndBst compels *earth-dwellers* to give religious service to the *1stBst*.
6. *whose fatal wound was healed* - many commentators not treat. Who?
 - i. 1stBst - Rv 13:1 Of whom does he remind us? 12:3 dragon.
 - ii. 17:3-14. "This is, perhaps, the most difficult paragraph in the entire book of Rev." Emperor worship: "Caesar is Lord".
 - iii. Empires are toppled & replaced in providence - often a victory of good over evil; of what is "good" over what is bad. Christianity has piggy-backed on colonial imperialism [Africa, China, Philippines], where Christians now want to be more Christian than Western. Common grace goodness can drink in the flood of Dragon's lies [12:16].
 - iv. Christians have faced, are facing, & will face, manifestations of the spiritual conflict until the end of this age. Pray for discernment.

Applic #1: We Need Wisdom and Discernment

1. Warns against apostasy. Satan presents the world w/ a false trinity & false church; promises of utopia w/o gospel & that does not triumph over death.
2. We need discernment - 2C 11:13-15.
3. Who is most susceptible to counterfeit?
4. There is a difference between being untaught & honestly mistaken, & being an angel of light purposefully propagating err & heresy. Phil 1:9-11.