

**Revelation 13: 11-13; "The Beast out of the Earth", Sermon # 94**  
**in the series - "The Faithful and True Witness",**  
**Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on November 2nd, 2008,**  
**in the Afternoon Worship Service.**

The Beast rising up out of the sea and the beast coming up out of the earth are, in my estimation, two different aspects of the one Antichrist which is the Papal power; that power which is still in existence, and even thriving, to this very day. The Devil is still succeeding in deceiving the World into thinking that the doctrines of Roman Catholicism are somehow true Christianity, and that the Pope is somehow the Vicar of Christ, the head of Christ's church here upon the earth. We have seen that the Beast coming up out of the sea is the political side of Antichrist; the attempt by the Papacy to influence and control, first of all, the 10 kingdoms of Europe in regard to their political policies on true and false religion. And then in our day, still, to spread the influence of Pope, Priests, and church to the ends of the World. The Pope's edicts concerning kings and kingdoms, back when the system first found its rise, were designed to establish a church-state political control which would further their purposes. Their purposes were supposedly related to being Christ's disciples. What they ended up doing was to further their own purposes, politically and spiritually, and not God's. And being led by these Popes they attempted to build an earthly glorious kingdom of pomp and power, and to further a system of false doctrine which enslaved the souls of men, both politically and spiritually. All those people that adhered to the Pope in loyalty and support of his false authority and doctrine came to be seen by the people of the ten kingdoms of Europe as the "true church". It was said that salvation could not be found outside of the "Holy Roman Church". The idea of the Holy Roman Empire, the joining together of kings and kingdoms in support of the Papal cause of building an earthly kingdom of God, appealed to many. Those people who were faithful to God's word, who attempted to deny the Pope's authority in matters of doctrine and practice of religion, were suppressed and persecuted. After the year 756 A.D., through the means of promoting oppression and persecution of true Bible-believing Christians, this Antichristian system grew and developed through the deceptive efforts of a long series of Popes who persuaded the political leaders of the 10 kingdoms to persecute the Waldenses and the Albigenses and others who knew what the Scriptures said. They took their stand against the falsehoods propagated by Rome. All this systematic opposition to God's kingdom has a definite length assigned to it in the mind of God, and its length has been communicated to us in the Scriptures. The 1260 days prophecy (a prophetic day for an actual year), have still not come to an end. But the end is coming and will indeed come in God's appointed time. If I am reading prophecy rightly, Christ's true Church will be given the ability to see the gospel conquer among the nations and the truth of the Bible will prevail in a general sense over all the kingdoms of this World in a coming day. Lord, may it come quickly. What we have here in verses 11 and 12 is the description of the other aspect of Antichrist; the Ecclesiastical Beast. This beast

is described for us first as coming out of the earth. Second, it is described as having two horns like a lamb and it speaks like a dragon. And third, it exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. Let's spend a little time exploring these descriptions of the second beast.

### **1st - The Second Beast comes up out of the earth.**

The earth, as we have seen in past studies is a word picture which represents to our mind's eye something solid and substantial and unmovable. Psalm 119: 89 says, "Forever, O lord, Your word is settled (it stands firm) in heaven." "Your faithfulness endures to all generation; You established the earth, and it abides." "They continue this day according to your ordinances." If this is true of the physical earth and world which God has made, how much more so His church. Our Lord Jesus said in Matthew 16: 18 - "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The Church of Jesus Christ is founded on the rock of the Apostle Peter's statement in confessing Jesus Christ. It is "the earth of our text here in verse 13. "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?", Jesus said to His disciples on one occasion. So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" "Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered him and said, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven." This confession is how the true Church of Jesus Christ has been built, is being built, and will yet be built and completed. But it was this very confession of Peter's that has been taken and misconstrued to mean that the church of Jesus Christ was to be built upon Peter, himself, and upon all of his "apostolic successors" the Popes.

But you and I must understand that Antichrist is a beast who came up out of the earth. Antichrist came up; he grew up within the Church of Jesus Christ itself. Turn with me to 2 Thessalonians 2. "Now, brethren concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come." "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." "Do you not remember that when I was with you I told you these things?" "And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time." "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." There were some at the church of Thessalonica who thought that coming of the Lord, which is called here, "the day of Christ", had come already. Somehow there might have been a secret rapture. And these saints were troubled, thinking that they had missed it. But Paul assures them that this was not the case. They shouldn't be shaken. They shouldn't be troubled. They shouldn't be troubled by anyone's false teaching (spirit), or any letter trying to pretend that it

had Apostolic authority, to the effect that Christ had come. His coming, and the gathering of all of His people to Him, would not take place until "the falling away" came first. He is speaking here of the great apostasy that we are studying now. And "the mystery of lawlessness" was already at work in the church of that day to show that even as leaven it would grow up and fill the church at last, when men would believe the lie of Papal authority in this third time period of Church History that we are studying. Paul says that the "man of sin" had to appear before Christ came back and all of His dear people were gathered to Him. This does eliminate the idea of many prophetic interpreters in our day that Christ could have come back at any moment in the past and that the next event on the prophetic calendar is the rapture of the Church. No, the apostasy comes first. The reason that the apostasy, the great falling away from true doctrine and authority in the Church had not taken place in Paul's day, and would not for some seven hundred years, was because of the "he who now restrains" being there. It was the Lord working through His people, causing them to pray and to suffer in order that the Roman government of their day would continue, even though they had for the most part, very corrupt and idolatrous leaders until Constantine, and then more of them after him. Antichrist could not arise as a power within the church, to control the church as long as a humble faithful Church remained faithful to the Scriptures. They loved not their life unto death, but laid it down for the true worship. But when Christianity became identified as the state religion and much wealth, power, and privilege went along with the position of Bishop in the Church; then the way was paved, and the door was opened for the man of sin to be revealed.

No, the man of sin had not yet been revealed then. But he would be revealed "in his own time". That is the time of the 1260 prophetic years that we are speaking of. He was revealed in the "temple of God", "taking his seat in the temple of God", showing himself that he is God. Now, anyone who has studied the Scripture carefully, knows that the temple of God, during the Church age is the Church of Jesus Christ. This has nothing to do with the Jews rebuilding a temple in Jerusalem. It has everything to do with the Church of Jesus Christ, composed of Jews and Gentiles being imposed upon in their worship of the true and living God. It is Jesus Christ, who as the God-man, is the only man who is to be worshiped and adored in this temple, not the Pope of Rome. And yet honor, and homage, and worship have been given not only to one man, in one generation, but to a whole succession of men in many generations, down through the 1260 years; so that the ring may be kissed on his hand, and false honor and praise be given to one who is totally unworthy of it. This is surely blasphemy. Surely this is the Antichrist. This beast comes up out of the earth, and is still reigning falsely in the visible church. Ask yourself how many people in our own day still fawn over the Pope, even Protestant "Christians", giving him respect and honor which he does not deserve. "His Holiness" is an usurper to the crown rights of our Lord Jesus. It is the living Lord Jesus alone who has the right to rule and reign in men's hearts and to receive their worship. Now the one who the Devil has anointed and appointed is in his place. Are you not jealous with a holy

jealousy for the glory of Christ which has been cast to the earth? Then you must enter your protest to this false system of authority and worship.

**Now 2ndly - This beast is described as having two horns as a lamb and speaks as a dragon.**

This is telling us that while Antichrist deliberately tries to counterfeit the holy and humble disposition of Christ, he is all the while speaking as a persecutor and enemy of true Christians. Let's think about these 2 word pictures; the lamb and the dragon for a few moments. With the beast coming out of the sea there were 10 horns. With this second beast there are 2. In the beast of the sea, the passage talks about the 10 political kingdoms of the former Roman Empire. In this beast the horns are the 2 great bodies of regular and secular clergy who work under and with the Pope to minister to those who worship in accordance with their false doctrines. There is a great show of authority in the Roman Catholic church on all levels. There are monks and priests, and bishops, and cardinals. Everyone feels as though they are indeed working together to uphold the true worship of God through the teaching and ceremonial practices of the church. But in reality there is only the form of religion and not the power of true godliness. Whatever teaching is being received is not convincing them of the vanity of what they are doing. The show takes place in the regular sacrifice of the Mass where Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Christ is being sacrificed and the sins of all the faithful are supposedly being taken away. But those who partake do not realize that Christ's actual sacrifice 2000 years ago, has already taken away the sins of anyone who believes, once for all, and it does not need to be repeatedly portrayed by a priest who consecrates the wafers that he makes or uses, changing them into the actual body of our Lord. No, surely here is deception and blasphemy! A person is not saved by sacraments. He is saved by exercising faith in the living Lord Jesus, who died once for all die on the cross and is risen again. It is not the crucifix in the hand with a dead Jesus on it who should be worshiped, but the living risen Christ by faith in the gospel and faith in the word of God. It is not the adoration of the host that is true worship. It is the adoration of Christ in the regenerate spirit of a person who has come directly to Him looking for grace.

But our Lord Jesus warned against those persons who are being described for us here in these verses. Turn with me to Matthew chapter 7. Here Jesus tells us about the true way to eternal life. Verse 13 says, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are few who find it." "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves." "You will know them by their fruits." What are the fruits of the Roman Catholic clergy? They are the fruits of worldly pride and pomp, as seen in the foremost of their clergy. They are the fruits of covetous and avarice as seen in their desire for the people's money in indulgences and their malice against those who believe that they are acting un-Biblically. In summing it all up, they cannot be good fruits if they are based upon false doctrine and a selfish, worldly practice. They act

like lambs but speak like dragons. They are easy on themselves in regard to sin and indulgent living, and yet they are hard on others who point it out to them.

How do we apply all this to ourselves? We apply it by being warned, and warning others of the deceptiveness of the mystery of iniquity. This is a profitable doctrine; to teach against this mystery of iniquity in the Papal power; in the power of deceiving so many people over so long a period of time. I hope that each of us will take it to heart. God has vested spiritually authority in His church. It is found in the living Christ first of all, ruling and reigning through His written word the Bible. And then He has further vested authority in your pastor or elders who teach you the good word of God; who by His grace set a good example and live a good example before you. Our God and our Christ have not vested authority in the Papacy. He has spoken against the true Christian Church which holds to the Bible. I am well aware that differences exist in the way that true Christians view Bible truth at certain points. But we should not speak against the brethren. We speak against those who presume to take a greater authority to themselves than the word of God allows them. We submit to all lawfully constituted authority in church and state where and when it commands and affirms what is Biblically right. But we refuse tyranny and oppression by either church and state where it is affirmed by many witnesses with clear Biblical proof. This was the essence of the Reformation which freed us from Papal dominion and persecution and set the stage for Constitutional governments which granted religious liberty along the lines of Biblical understanding. Will you not thank God for this? Let it be a motivation to deliberate worship, and careful attendance to the word of God in Worship. You are free to come and listen to the word of God preached and explained. This was the privilege of very few in the earlier centuries of this time period of Antichrist which we are studying.

**Lastly - This beast is described as exercising all the authority of the first beast in his presence.** (Verse 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." Now, we have seen in past studies that the first beast was the Pagan Roman Empire and government, headed by the Emperors from Diocletian to Nero who persecuted true Christians very severely. We saw that his "head wound" was the Lord overthrowing this systematic opposition to Christ's kingdom and His people by the conversion of Constantine to Christ, and the subsequent uniting of Church and State in a brief victory for God's people. Their real victory, however, lay in overcoming this first beast by staunchly refusing to worship any Emperor or man or false god put forward by them. The authority of the first beast was the authority of the Emperor backed by the Devil's power. This authority instead of being destroyed was actually brought into the Church and promoted. Slowly and gradually more and more authority came to, and was taken by the Popes, so that eventually they thought that they ruled over nations and kings and were on the same level, or even above, Christ Himself. All those bishops, cardinals, priests, and monks who worked under their authority exercised the Pope's authority in the matters of forgiveness and

absolution of men's sins and also the punishment of heretics and those who would not comply. Therefore, those persons who would not comply with priest or Pope were to be brought back into line; to either comply with this false worship, or to be punished in some way; banished or put to death. This actually happened to millions of people before, during, and after the Reformation.

In closing, I need to remind you that the deception of Antichrist has been with us for a long time, and many Christians, even now, are not convinced that the Pope and His clergy are the Antichrist. Let us look into these matters of history and look more carefully at the word of God and we will find the truth. Let me close with the words of Thomas Manton. In his sermon on 2 Thessalonians 2: 8 he says, "It is the property of Antichrist to boast himself to be above all laws, and to be judged by no power upon earth ; for therein he resembles Antiochus, of whom it is said, ' He shall do according to his own will. Dan. xi. 36. Now if this be one of his characters, it will not be hard to find him out ; for who is that infallible judge that taketh upon him to decide all controversies, and judges all things, and is judged of no man? And whosoever doth but mutter against his decrees and delusions, if a private person, he is to be destroyed with fire and sword; if he is a prince, to be excommunicated, deposed, and his subjects freed from all allegiance to him? Lastly, Who is he that hath brought into the church the great impiety of worshipping of God by images, and the worship of the saints and angels, with a worship which is only due to God ? If there be not such a power extant in the Christian world, then I confess we are yet to seek for Antichrist ; but if there be, none so willfully blind as they that cannot see wood for trees, and know not where to fix this character."