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12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast [Roman Catholicism is called the first beast] before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save that he had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

The Second Beast

Part 1 of 2

Brother Emerson A. Wilson

The Confirmed Word

About one-third of the Bible is prophetic. I merely make this statement because we have people who will tell you that they are not interested in prophecy. Well, my friend, more than one-third of the Bible is prophecy. Prophecy is history in advance, and it is so necessary that we understand it. To know the history of the past and the prophecy of the future is to have a perfect understanding of the confusing situation of our present day. I just want to make it clear that we are not wasting time when we study these things.

Peter said in 2 Peter 1:19, "We have also a more sure [confirmed] word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place. . . ." He talks of being on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus, and of hearing God speak out of Heaven, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (verse 17). That was A.D. 32, and by A.D. 90, God had confirmed the fact that Jesus was His Son, His only Son, that He was the only way, the truth, and the life. These Apostles went every-

where preaching the Gospel, and Jesus confirmed the Word with signs following.

That was in A.D. 90. How much of a confirmed Word do we have today? Most everything in the Bible has been confirmed. Most every prophecy has come to pass, just as God said it would in His Book. We have less reason to doubt God's Word than any people who have lived on the face of the earth, yet there is more unbelief today than at any other period of time.

I say that, not to find fault, but that you might realize the enemy is strong today. I am not building him up; I am only telling you the truth. Brother, he has a stronghold on a lot of people through unbelief. They just cannot believe the Word of God will come out that way. Every Bible prophecy which has been fulfilled has happened exactly as God said it would, and so will the rest.

Hidden Treasures

Someone may question, "Why don't more people understand prophecy if it is true?" First of all, we have legislated Bible reading and prayer out of the schools. A

recent survey found that one out of eight children, eight to twelve years old, could not name three of the Ten Commandments. One out of thirty-eight could not name three prophets. A very high percentage in several schools could not give the name of one Gospel.

It has not only been taken out of the schools, but the homes are also failing to teach it. After all, God ordained for it to be taught in the home, not in the school. Too many so-called churches do not preach the truth, so some honest-hearted individuals are struggling with Bible study, trying to understand it. Some people say, "I believe we ought to let our children choose their own religion." I do, too, but how are they going to choose when they don't know anything about anything? How are they going to make a right choice between truth and error when they have not been taught what is error and what is truth?

The Revelation is mysterious, but not too mysterious. There is nothing more precious than a mystery revealed. On the human level, man has delved into the mysteries of God and harnessed the natural treasures of the earth, and we are

blessed by it. Jesus let us see that the Word is like a treasure hidden in a field (Matthew 13:44). To find this treasure, we must dig deep. Some highly educated men say there is nothing in it, that the Revelation should not have been out in the Bible. Brother, the Holy Ghost can take you down to the depth where the treasure is hidden and there reveal it to you.

What is a mystery? Mr. Webster says a mystery is a religious truth beyond human understanding. The Bible is full of mysteries. The Bible reveals the mystery of godliness. The religious world cannot understand it; they say that no one can live free from sin and live godly. Well, there is a mystery to it; it is called the mystery of godliness. The mystery of iniquity is also revealed. Then, over in Ephesians 5:32, Paul said, "This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." What was that great mystery? The mystery of the church, how God brings His people together, and keeps them together as one people. We hope you can agree now that studying prophecy is a necessary thing.

The End of the Reign of the First Beast

Papalism, as we studied in our last message, was to continue 42 months, or 1260 years. Since the first beast was to continue that long, it was to have much to do with this second beast.

Let us read Daniel 7:25-27: "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

"But the judgment shall sit, [He is not talking about final judgment. He is saying that God is going to bring judgment on this. Truth always brings judgment on any contrary and corrupt condition that is going forth.] and they shall take

away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him."

Daniel saw the first beast rising up, and that he was going to reign for 1260 years. He also saw that the Word of God was going to be opened again, that judgment was going to be put on that system, that the kingdom was going to begin to come forth, and this first beast was going to be consumed with the power of God and his reign taken away from him clear to the end.

Now, as we studied the falling away, we began to talk about the church. When they fell away from truth, the true church was lost sight of visibly. The true saints hid in the dens and the caves. When we talk about the true church being lost sight of, we are saying that she was lost sight of by name. Nowhere through here were the people of God called by a Bible name. They could not come out and take the outward stand for truth by taking the Bible name and outwardly declaring the doctrines of the church. So when the church was lost sight of, she was lost sight of by doctrine and by name.

Even as God had people (this will help you later in the message), so He has people today who are scattered around in sectarianism. Unless, however, they see the truth, the true church is lost sight of for them. Why? My friend, they have a name other than the Bible name, and they are following some doctrine other than the true doctrines of the church.

This first beast reigned until God in His great wisdom and power saw fit for the Word of God to be brought forth. God said that the reign of the first beast would be 1260 years. So, when we get to the end of this 1260 years, we can look

for something to happen. We can look for the reign of this first beast, who had been killing the Christians, burning the Word of God, and driving the Christians into the dens, to come to an end. No man knew how it would come to an end, but God prophesied that it would.

Friend, the only thing that puts false religion down is the Word of God, openly declared and stood for. Whenever the Word of God grows in the hearts of God's people and prevails, falsity loses its grip from the minds and hearts, and from the community. When God saw fit to bring the reign of this beast to an end, He began to turn the Word of God loose a little bit.

The Reopening of the Word of God

Going into history, we see how the Word of God was turned loose at approximately 1300. Remember that Rome had burned the Bible. The only copies they had were in Latin so that the poor of the land could not read it for themselves. God knew if the Word of God was ever turned loose, it was going to have to be translated back into the languages that people could understand. So He moved on an educated man, John Wycliffe, and he translated the Bible into English. At approximately the same time, He moved on two great reformers in Bohemia: Jerome of Prague University and John Huss. At the same time that God made a move in England, He also made a move in Bohemia through these great reformers.

John Huss preached what Bible he understood with such power and fierceness that Rome raised up against him and burned him at the stake on July 6, 1415. The persecution was still going on, but it was about to come to an end. As they burned John Huss at the stake, he stood and said, "Let a goose be sacrificed [the name Huss in the Bohemian language means 'a goose'], but one hundred years hence out of its ashes there will rise a swan, who

will uphold the truth that he had defended." That "he" spake of Martin Luther, the lionhearted reformer who would follow him and turn the Gatling guns of truth loose on that empire and upon that false condition.

John Wycliffe brought so much displeasure upon himself by translating the Bible into English that after he died and had been buried for forty years, Rome got so mad at him, they dug up his bones, held a trial for him, and burned his bones. Hatred is pretty deep when it will reach into the grave where a man's bones have laid for forty years.

Someone may yet contend, "That is history." Don't forget, the spirit of the dragon, of the beast, and of the false prophet has gone out to the whole world. So the spirit I am talking about is prominent in our day and time. It has gone into all the world and we need to consider it.

With all the rising up that Rome could do, Europe was being shaken from end to end by a power that that generation had never known before. Under the sound of God's Word, the everlasting pounding of God's Word through Martin Luther and others, the papacy began to crumble. Now, I want to tell you, you can build up anything you want, but under the certain sounding of God's Word, if it is wrong, it will be pounded to pieces. Nothing false can stand the sounding of God's Word. That's why there are not many people in church; their life is of such and they have no desire to change it, and the Word of God to them is like a hammer pounding on the rock.

Human Intelligence

The groundwork of a reformation was laid through Martin Luther and those men we mentioned, along with others, that would reach the whole world. We are eternally indebted to the reformers, every one of that early Protestant era. Why? They have given us education. That is why this second beast came up

out of the earth. The first one came up out of the sea, out of wickedness and corruption, but this second beast came up out of the earth. "Out of the earth" means out of the minds of men. Much of this is run through human intelligence.

Most all the colleges and schools of higher learning, in the beginning, were started by some church group. There is much we have to thank the reformation for. We not only have education, but we also have open church buildings; we are free to have church services today in America. We have a democracy, here in America, the home of the free, as we say it is.

With all the praise we can give early reformers for all they have brought us, we must make the statement that to call Protestantism the church is to misname it. Protestantism never was the church and never can be the church. That is a strong statement, but it is true.

Because there was some truth sounded out of Protestantism, some people say it was the church. I want to give you good reasons why Protestantism never was the church and never can be. All the coming together she can do is only brought by human intelligence. It is of the earth. It came up out of the earth, and anything which came out of the earth is going back down to the earth. Babylon is fallen; it has gone to a lower, degraded state of the earth than it was in its beginning. Movement after movement came out with some fire, some life, sinless living, and power in the midst, but they have gone down to a lower earthly level than where they started

All through the Revelation and the Bible, it lets us know that the Word and the Spirit are the true vicars of the true church. They are here in Christ's stead to manage the church. It is by God's Word and Spirit that we are brought into the light of the church and kept in the light of the church. Even though the Word and Spirit rose up when holiness began to shine forth, men killed

those two witnesses. Revelation, Chapter 11, tells of the two witnesses, the Word and the Spirit, lying dead in the street. Men did not go along very long before another spirit began to move in and work.

This is what bothers me. We will never have any trouble with division among us by feeling differently about some Scripture; we can still be one, love each other and work together. When a spirit rises up that begins to say, "I won't have anything to do with you if you don't see just as I do," that is another spirit. When another spirit rises up, there will be another body, there will be a division, and there will be another work.

God understands us; He remembers that we are dust. He remembers that we may have different ideas about some things, but if we will keep the one Spirit of God, if we will endeavor to keep the one Spirit that baptized us into one body, we can remain one body. They, however, killed the Word and the Spirit, yet they went right on working.

The Power of the First Beast

Someone may question: "How could they go on? How could it be alive?" Revelation 13:15 says, "And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast. . . ." My friend, the life is in the spirit. We taught early in the lesson that the life was in the blood through the everlasting Spirit. Now, this first beast had power to give life, or give a spirit, to this second beast. We will have more to say about that in just a little bit.

The question may arise: "What happened to the reformation?" When a different spirit got in, then creed-making began. The Augsburg Confession, the first human creed, was written in 1530; it was just the beginning of a long procession of creed-making. Through that creed-making, we have this second beast. John said that it came up out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb; these two horns are power, and they

denote the beginning of Protestantism.

Where did it begin? Luther gave a state church to Germany. At the same time, King Henry VIII gave a state church to England. What do I mean by a state church? It was just exactly like the first beast—church and state together, the church governing the state. Protestantism in its early days began in Germany and England, each having a state church.

We read in Revelation 13:11-12: "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast. . . ." What was the power of the first beast? The church reigning over the state. In Rome, if you did not become a Roman Catholic, off came your head, or you were killed in some other manner. Here the same power rose up when Luther gave Germany a state church; if you did not become a Lutheran, they would kill you. In England, when you did not join the Church of England and belong to it, they exercised the same power of the first beast; they would kill you. The laws of the land do not let them kill us now, but if the law had been lifted, I would have been killed fifty thousand times.

The spirit is still there. Oh, yes, it is still there. I agree with the fact that there are good people in Protestantism, people who are actually saved and have the Spirit of God. I am merely referring to the spirit that dominates Protestantism; it is the same spirit of the beast.

Beast Talk

The first beast had power to give life to the second beast, and it spake just like the first beast. How did this beast speak? "If you don't become a Roman Catholic, your head is coming off." Protestantism had a good start, but it was not long until they took on this wrong spirit. What was the Thirty Year War? A religious war where different religious organizations put armies on the battlefield and fought for their creed. The Huguenot War was a religious war.

People today will hardly believe it; it is too amazing to believe that docile religious groups could ever have done that. Friend, the spirit of the beast phases out, then it rises up every little bit, even today. You and I may have a good start, but another spirit can get hold of us. Those spirits are out there. Whenever you grieve the Holy Spirit and refuse to let Him have His way, any one of these spirits we have been teaching about is waiting: they will be glad to come in.

In England Henry VIII drew up the Bloody-Six Articles; he persecuted Catholics and Protestants alike. The Church of England, through the Bloody-Six Articles, persecuted and killed Christians. Consider John Bunyon, who wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*, in the Bedford jail. Why was he in jail? The Church of England put him in there to die like a rat because he believed principles in the Bible which were against the teachings of the Church of England.

The Quakers were confined to

prison by the thousands, this is what brought the Puritans to this country. Why are we really here in America? Why did our forefathers come here? Because the Church of England would not give them freedom to worship according to the dictates of their conscience.

Well, they landed on these shores, and we rejoice in that landing every year. They came to get free from the persecution of the Church of England. But many who came on the boats were not true Christians; they were Protestants, too, so the spirit of it traveled with them. Their first year here, Christians (supposed-to-be) banished Roger Williams and a little group of his followers out in the cold. They made them sleep in the snow without any covers, to freeze to death, because they saw a little more truth than the first group which came over. I say "Thanks" to those who had a deep enough love and appreciation for God and His Word that they would lay down their bones in the ice and snow before they would back off a God-given conviction of truth.

I want you to see that the spirit just followed right on. How wonderful it would have been if it could have been left in England, but where ever there are people, they bring spirits with them. Not everyone who claims to be a Christian today has the right spirit. No, sir!

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The Second Beast

Part 2 of 2

Brother Emerson A. Wilson

Lying Wonders

We have traveled quite a way in history, but true history and prophecy go right together. Revelation 13:12-14 tells us: "And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast. . . ."

This second beast did this in the sight of men and in the sight of the beast, by the power of the beast. It was a deception, not a true miracle. I am not going to spend a lot of time on miracles, but 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 will tell us what kind of miracles this beast works: "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

Now, we know that this fellow deceives those who dwell on the face of the earth by deceptive miracles and lying wonders. What does the Scripture mean when it says that he makes fire come down from Heaven? Fire coming down from Heaven, through the Bible, is a supposed sure sign that God is in this thing. It reverts back to Elijah's day when he met those false prophets on Mount Carmel.

He said, ". . . the God that answereth by fire, let him be God . . ." (1 Kings 18:24). After the prophets of Baal failed to call down any fire, Elijah repaired the altar of the Lord, and built it in the name of the Lord. He laid the sacrifice on it, had barrels of water poured on it, prayed a short prayer, and God sent down the fire. Now, here (Revelation 13:13-14) we have a figurative, or symbolic, expression of a religion which is deceiving people by making them feel that God sent them by the means of lying wonders and deceptive miracles. What are some of them? One such lying wonder is transubstantiation. I was at a Catholic funeral not long ago, and that priest took a cracker and let them know that after he prayed over it, it

became the body of Christ. What a miracle—but it was a lie. It was a cracker before he prayed, and it was a cracker after he prayed. That is a lying wonder.

Deceptive Miracles

Fire falling down from Heaven is some means that religious organizations use to deceive people to make them feel that God is really it. We come right on over from Catholicism to the false fire of Pentecostalism. How do they try to convince people today that God is in the thing? By the jumps, the shakes, and the hollars. That is not the power of God shaking them; the power of God does not knock you down. That is not the power of God; contrariwise, it is a deceptive thing, trying to make people feel that God is in this thing.

Back of all the deception is the devil. What does he want to do with that deception? He wants to make an image to the beast, or he wants to build up a human organization. He is not truly interested in your getting a good experience of salvation where you can live victoriously.

Revelation 18:23 uncovers these

miracles; it says they do it by sorcery. Sorcery is magic or deceptive miracles. When Aaron, in order to prove to the Egyptians that God was with Moses and himself, threw down his rod, it actually became a serpent. Pharaoh then called for his magicians so they could try to imitate the act. What is a magician? A man who has a hand that can move faster than the eye. He pulls rabbits out of hats, everything imaginable, right in front of your eyes. He pulls things out that there is no way to get inside that silk hat. How does he do it? By sorcery.

Jesus said, "For there shall arise . . . false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matthew 24:24). How are you going to know where God is? You cannot say that God is somewhere because people are supposedly getting healed by the dozens. You cannot say God is somewhere because people are finding good jobs, getting rich overnight and living in a mansion. That is being offered to the public today. How can you tell where God is? There will be a people who will hear the truth, rejoice in the truth, and live clear-cut holy lives before God. In the midst of all the confusion, He is seeking such.

An Image

Let us continue with Revelation 13:14, "And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live."

Now, what did the devil have in mind with all those miracles? Not to help people, but to build an image to the first beast. What is the image? My friend, the word image means "an imitation, a representation, a similitude of any person or thing, a copy." So the devil was working through this deception to build up a

copy, an image or a similitude, of the first beast. Protestantism today is a similitude, a copy, an image of Roman Catholicism. It is just a little more deceptive, but it is an image of Roman Catholicism.

An image in the light of the Scripture is an ecclesiastical organization which is a direct image of Rome. Now, I know that many people feel that Protestantism is nothing like Roman Catholicism, but I ask you again to look at it in the light of God's Word. The likeness between Romanism and Protestantism is very conspicuous. Revelation 17:1-5 pictures a mother and daughter, Roman Catholicism being the mother and Protestantism being her harlot daughters.

Why are the many organizations of Protestantism called an image to the beast? First of all, Rome claims power admit and excommunicate members by man rule; Protestantism does the same. Both prescribe their own discipline, or disciple. Roman Catholics are taught to follow the teachings of the church. You can take a Roman Catholic Bible and read right in it that you must be born again, but they follow the teachings of the church, regardless of what the Bible says. Protestantism does just the same; they are individual organizations. Their members are not governed by what the Word of God says; they are governed by what their church teaches.

This second beast resembles the lamb, but its power lies in deception and violence; the work is done, according to verse 12, to magnify the first beast. Revelation 16:13 calls this second beast the false prophet because it brought forth more advanced intelligence.

Protestantism has certainly increased our knowledge and wisdom. Protestantism has changed much of the fashion of life, but the spirit which animates it is unchanged. That which comes up out of the earth must go back down to the earth.

Too many today use knowledge, culture, and earthly wisdom to

teach men that there is nothing worthy of worship except that which you can see, touch, and taste. This is going on in the teachings of Protestantism. The thought of faith, looking to the unseen, believing in that which man cannot see with the natural eye, is out of the question. Why? Human intelligence. This second beast operates out of the earth: what human intelligence cannot lay hold of, they lay down as false. We are therefore seeing a greater rising up of pastors who do not believe in a burning hell anymore. They do not believe in the Virgin Birth or a real devil. Why? Human intelligence. They cannot accept it if it is not according to their reasoning. I say this because we need to be afraid of this spirit.

Both systems are governed by men. Today, many bodies of the Protestant faith are uniting under one head. I want to show you how it is making an image to the beast. Somebody may say, "That was back there." It is developing an image more today than it ever was. Why? Many portions of Protestantism are coming together, and they have a president over the whole council of it. That president over the whole council of the different Protestant sects is a direct image of the Pope reigning over Roman Catholicism.

"He That Hath the Son Hath Life"

It is all man-made. This is why I refuse to join the Council of Churches—city, state, or nation. Why? I got my eyes opened. I am not going to help build up an image to that beast.

Protestantism, in their teaching of millenniums and a second chance is an image of Catholicism's teaching of purgatory. The Bible plainly teaches that there is no such chance. There is no opportunity for anybody beyond death or beyond the second coming of Christ. Roman Catholicism in their human teaching believes there is a purgatory out there, and the Protestant believes there is

a millennium out there. One teaching is as false as the other; both of them came up out of the earth. None of that teaching came from God out of Heaven.

First John 5:12 says, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." It is just that simple. No matter what men tell you, only he that hath the Son hath life. Friend, if you do not have Christ in your heart and life through the Spirit of God, you are spiritually dead and on the road to hell, a hell that no priest or Pope can pray you out of. If you do have Christ in your heart and life, my friend, preachers and Popes can rise up unanimously against you, but they cannot touch you; you will go to Heaven anyway. It is just that settled and it is just that way.

The second beast speaks more like the dragon every day. Revelation 13:6, speaking of the first beast again, says, "And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven." This second beast speaks just like that.

The question may be asked, "How does he blaspheme against God?" In many different ways. We will just take a simple one from the Bible. The Jews charged Jesus with blasphemy because He said that lie could forgive sins. The Jews thought He was a man; they did not realize that He was God. When any priest (a man) says he can forgive sins, he is blaspheming. There is no man who can forgive sins. No one but God can forgive sins, so man blasphemes God when he says that he can forgive sins.

Revelation 17:3 says that she (Babylon) is full of names of blasphemy. How do you blaspheme the name of God? To put the name of men where God's name belongs is blasphemy. Go look at the Catholic edifices; it's St. Mary's Church, St. Joseph's Church, St. Luke's Church, etc. Then come over to Protestantism, and you will find names such as St. Luke, St. John,

Wesleyan-blasphemy.

The Mark of the Beast

The mark of the beast is a whole message, but let me hit it a little rap or two. I have lived long enough to watch prophets call that mark of the beast one thing and another. When time goes on long enough to prove one lie untrue, they come up with another one, and they will be doing that until Jesus comes. The Bible says: "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Revelation 13:16-17).

The first thing I want you notice is where the mark is put on. The mark is put on the right hand and in the forehead. The Bible tells us very plainly where it is. Perhaps one of the most dangerous marks of Catholicism that is embedded in Protestantism today is the deception of multitudes. When we begin to talk about this mark in the forehead and in the hand, I want you to turn your minds a moment to the deception that has been put on multitudes. There are millions who believe they are saved as Catholics because a priest has, by some formal rite, admitted them into the church. It is the same with Protestantism. Whether it was christening as a little baby or some other ceremony, there are many different formal rites which people are resting in as their salvation.

This mark in the forehead and in the hand is a symbolic expression of ownership. When Jesus gave the Revelation to John, and right on up until just a few years back, slaves were marked in the forehead so that all would know who they belonged to. The mark in the forehead and in the hand begins to speak of some kind of a mark this beast has put on people so that everybody can see who they belong to.

Every person reveals his brand

of religion by the name he bears. Another way is by where he goes and what he does, the deeds of his life. Religions have marks. It is sometimes manifested by their clothing, their way of life, or sometimes by their actions.

Head-and-Hand Religion

Someone may ask, "Why in the forehead and in the hand?" It does not say *on* the forehead, but *in* the forehead, or in the mind. How does he mark it in the mind? By the teaching, they mark them in the mind until they believe this, that, and the other. We could say by catechism. There is hardly any religious group you can join without taking a catechism class. They are marking you in the mind. If you do not have time to go to catechism class, but they think you will be a good payer, they take you in by marking you in the hand—just shake the preacher's hand and they will take you in. Jesus has all His sheep marked in the forehead and in the foot: they hear His voice and follow Him (John 10:27). Every one of God's sheep are marked.

Someone may contend, "He is talking about a mark where you cannot buy or sell." This head-and-hand mark is merely a picture of the cheapness of false religion; it is a head-and-hand religion. It does nothing for the heart. There is nothing in this chapter that mentions anything about a day coming when you can't buy groceries or gasoline. Everything within this lesson is a spiritual lesson. Remember, the Revelation is a spiritual revelation, revealing spiritual conditions to come on the earth. Here John talked about a time when you cannot buy or sell without the mark, the number of his name, or the name of the beast. Buying and selling is a figurative expression of a means of exchange. In Roman Catholicism, you must adhere to its teachings and mandates, or you have no part with them. In other words, you have no exchange with

them. The same is true in Protestantism. You can't carry on exchange unless you belong to that organization. Oh, you can visit and be treated properly, but you will never get into the exchange of it to the place where they are willing to use you and let you be used unless you join that organization. You must have their mark in order to have their recognition.

We are infringing right now on the message of the eighth beast, where there has been a breaking down of some of these things down through the years. It is not enough to be saved; you have to join their organization or group. In many cases of the past, you had to be licensed by their organization, or you could not carry on a medium of exchange. This mark of the beast causes ill feelings, hatred, envy, strife, and even murder in the hearts of supposed-to-be God's people.

In many Catholic-controlled countries, the mark reaches deeper than the spiritual realm. In Spain, force is used to pressure non-Catholics into their molds. A non-Catholic cannot run for office in Spain. You cannot have any kind of funeral in Spain except a Catholic funeral. You can have no kind of marriage in Spain unless the priest marries you, and your children must be sent to a Catholic school. Somebody may say, "That's in Spain." Well, you cannot marry a Catholic now unless you sign your children over to them.

The Number of His Name

What is the number of his name? His number is 666. Remember that Greece and Rome, and also the Jews, use letters of the alphabet for numbers. Not only does *Vicarius Filiidei* in Latin add up to 666, but it is not a coincidence that the word *Lateinos*, which means "Latin kingdom," contains the number 666. The Hebrew name for the Roman beast is *Romiith*. Take the numerals out of it, and it adds up to 666. So in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, it is still the mark of a man. Just as they wrote

"King of the Jews" in three languages over the Son of God, God is good enough to reveal in three languages that the number of this man, the Pope of Rome, is 666.

What does that have to do with Protestantism? How do they receive the number of his name? *Vicarius Filiidei* means "I'm vicar of the Son of God." In other words, "As a man, I am here running this organization." Every Protestant organization has its own human head. By having their own human vicar, they take the number of his name. The true vicars are the Word and the Spirit, and they are crowded out and set aside for the conferences of men to have their place. May God help us to see that the buying and the selling is spiritual. Proverbs 23:23 says, "Buy the truth, and sell it not . . ." But if we are not recognized by the local organization of churches, we don't have a mark, or a number, or a name.

Friend, the system of Protestantism is antichrist; it is against Christ. Don't look for help from Protestantism to build up the kingdom of God. Don't look for help from Protestantism to build up the Church of God: it is antichrist. When you get right into the very system of it and seed of it, you see the same spirit predominates there which predominates in Catholicism. If a Roman Catholic ever gets salvation and gets to Heaven, he will have to get past the priest and get to Christ in old-time Bible repentance. The Protestant is the same: if he ever gets to Heaven, he is going to have to get by his creed and preacher, and get to Christ and walk in the light of God's Word.

God Is Calling

In these days, God is calling His people back to the morning-time light, and it is bringing about Bible unity that the Word of God tells us about. In the 17th chapter of John, Jesus sets forth very plainly four things that it takes to have unity: first, every person making up unity

must have eternal life; second, we have to be kept through the Father's name; third, we must be sanctified through the truth (John 17:17), not some creed, dogma or some teaching of the church. We have to be sanctified, or set apart, through the truth, or by Word of truth; fourth, we must have the glory of God. John 17:22 says, "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one."

We are not speaking against any person or people, only a system which is deceiving countless millions. Why am I so against it? Well, the deception of it causes people to be calm, with no disturbed feeling whatsoever about their soul's welfare. They are not the least bit excited about anything that has to do with their soul; they want something that will bring some pleasure to the flesh. They think they have made an agreement with hell and death; if death comes on them today, many of them will split hell wide open. They have been rocked to sleep in the carnal security of Protestantism until it is hard to even stir them to think about their souls.

Let me tell you, friend, the Bible is almost confirmed. Everything has been, or is being, fulfilled. Eternity is right out there. One of the Scriptures we used in this message is 1 John 5:12, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." This is the question: Have you opened your heart's door and let Jesus Christ come in? He promised never to leave or forsake you. If through the circumstances of life you have left Him, are you truly sorry? What will it take to bring you to yourself, to cause you to turn and come back to Father's house? Friend, without Christ, without a living experience of Christ in the heart, there is no real life here or hereafter. You are under the power of spiritual death now, called the first death; when physical death comes upon you, you will fall under the power of the second death to be separated from God

forever and ever.

The 20th chapter of Revelation lets you see beyond the judgment. The dragon, the beast, and the false prophet are going into the lake of fire that burns forever and ever. Are you a member of Christ, or are you a member of the beast? Are you a member of Christ, or are you a member of the false prophet? Well, my friend, it will make an eternal difference.

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