The Unholy Trinity
PART IV
Revelation 13:11-18

MAIN THOUGHT The UNHOLY TRINITY is introduced as SATAN (12:1-17), the ANTICHRIST (13:1-10), and the FALSE PROPHET (13:11-18).


HIS DESCRIPTION (11).
• The 3rd member of the unholy trinity is also called the FALSE PROPHET (16:13; 19:20; 20:10) and is the counterfeit Holy Spirit.
• Jesus warned about FALSE PROPHETS (Matt. 24:11, 24) – this being the worst.
• As the Holy Spirit brings glory to Christ (John 16:14), so too this beast brings glory to antichrist.
• He had 2 HORNS (no CROWNS – non-political) like a LAMB (showing his meek and mild character) but he spoke like a DRAGON (like a sheep in wolves clothing – Matt. 7:15) showing he too was possessed by Satan.

HIS MANDATE (12).
• He had delegated authority from the antichrist to make people worship the antichrist who had survived (resurrection?) his fatal wound.
• EMPEROR WORSHIP in Rome began with Julius Caesar who was proclaimed divus Julias – DIVINE after his death (42 BC). Other Roman emperors were also deified in this manner.

HIS MIRACULOUS SIGNS (13-15).
• As predicted (19:20; Deut. 13:1-3; Matt. 24:24; 2 Thess. 2:9), he performed miraculous signs including fire from heaven like Elijah (1 Kings 18:38; 2 Kings 1:10; Luke 9:54).
• He deceived people so that they installed a statue (GK=icon – image) of antichrist in the temple which is emperor worship (2 Thess. 2:4)! This is the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION predicted by Daniel (Dan. 9:27; 11:31) and Jesus (Matt. 24:15) – foreshadowed by Antiochus Epiphanes IV (167 BC).
• He even breathed (11:11) into the statue causing it to speak! This was a common deception (ventriloquism) in ancient cultures.

HIS MARK (16-17).
• He also forced all to receive a mark on his right hand or forehead in order to buy or sell. This mark denoted OWNERSHIP like a branding iron (7:3; Gal. 6:17) or the phylacteries (Matt. 23:5) worn by observant Jews.
• True saints will not take this mark and consequently be martyred (20:4).

HIS NUMBER (18). Because 7 is the number of completion for God (day seven of creation when God rested – Gen. 2:2-3), the antichrist takes 666 (3x for the unholy trinity?) to represent man’s number (day six of creation – Gen. 1:27, 31).