

Current Affairs #138 – The Man of Lawlessness
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Let us bring all of what we have been studying in the last four sections back into Revelation, chapter 13, starting at verse 11. Prior to this, the beast has arisen—that pompous horn,¹ that spokesman speaking blasphemous things against God, in context of the name of God, the dwelling place of God, and those who dwell in heaven—and deceives those who dwell upon the earth. So much so that all those who dwell upon the earth will worship the beast, and those are those whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb who was slain from the foundations of the world.²

As we get into this, let me point out one of the things that genealogies are: they are the names, the records, of those who have descended from a family. Simple enough, is it not? In the books of both Matthew and Luke, there are the genealogies of Jesus. In Matthew His genealogy begins with Abraham, with a side-step or detour to reference David.

The generations of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, Jacob begot Judah and his brothers... (Matthew 1:1-2 NKJV).

In Luke, chapter 3, the genealogy of Jesus begins,

Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat, ... [And so on, back to:] the son of Adam, the son of God (Luke 3:23-24a; 38b).

All Scripture quotations are from the NKJV Bible, unless otherwise noted.

¹ See Daniel 7:8: “I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.”

² See Revelation 13:5-8: “And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

They are called the books of genealogies. One's name was enrolled in the book of his fathers. When Jesus was born, He was taken up to Bethlehem to be enrolled. His enrollment was in the book of His genealogies.

Why am I making such a deal out of this? There are those who dwell on the earth who worship the beast. Those who dwell in heaven are enrolled genealogically in the Lamb's Book of Life—that is the record of the sons of God. It further describes the legitimacy by which our names came to be written in the Book of the Lamb by saying that we are part of this covenant of redemption. The Lamb was slain—shedding of His blood—to redeem sons to God. You remember in the early part of the Book of Revelation when heaven is speaking the praises of Christ, it says, “Blessed is the Lamb who was slain, who purchased men for God from every tribe and tongue and language and nation, and made them to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”³ The praise was specifically to the Lamb who was slain, who by His blood purchased men for God. So now, the Lamb's Book of Life is the reference of those who constitute this eternal genealogy; they are found in Christ.

The natural genealogy of Jesus from Adam to Christ was sixty-two generations, and it was meant to establish that they are the sons of God, because Adam was the original son of God—if Jesus is the Son of Adam, then He is a Son of God by extension. The genealogy in Matthew begins by highlighting His relationship to the king. David was the first king of promise, and the promise was originally given to Abraham and to his seed. For to the seed of Abraham, Judah, it had been said by his father, Jacob, “The scepter”—What is a scepter? A scepter is a king's staff—“The scepter shall not pass from Judah, nor the king's staff from between his knees. He will tie his colt to the vine, and He will wash His robes in the blood of grapes.”⁴ Judah only gave up that staff one time. He gave it up to Tamar who was disguised as a prostitute that she might conceive by Judah.⁵ So he really never actually gave up the staff. He passed the genealogical reference of the king to the

³ See Revelation 5:9-10: “And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.’”

⁴ See Genesis 49:10-11: “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people. Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes.”

⁵ See Genesis 38:1-30.

child of Judah through Tamar. Judah had two sons by Tamar: one of them was Perez, and the other was Zerah. The authority to produce the king went to Zerah, and the Zerahites produced Christ eventually.

The names that are written in the Lamb's Book of Life represent both the combination of the natural and the spiritual, just like they represent the combination of the priest and the king. In the reference in Luke to Adam, the focus of that genealogical record is that of the priestly order, because Adam was the first son of God and the first high priest in the order of Melchizedek. By contrast, David was the first king, according to that promise I just talked about that Judah was given and that passed down through his descendants of Zerah. That made Him both a kingly line and a priestly line. In the natural these two principles are held for us in the genealogy of Christ. But concerning those who are written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain, for our purposes, it is how a natural lineage, to which we are not naturally related, becomes our lineage. Because when it comes to Christ, it changes from the natural and becomes both the natural lineage and now the spiritual lineage.

Galatians tells us, "Whoever belongs to Christ are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise" (cf. Galatians 3:29). So Abraham is the father of our faith, although we are not naturally related to him. By coming to Christ, we are given the genealogy of the natural: we are given the royal priestly order. When we are grafted into Christ, we are seen through the lenses of Christ, both naturally and spiritually. But even though the natural came first, it is the spiritual that is preeminent. The natural is really just an illustration of which the spiritual was meant to be the fullness. It is not about being a Jew; that is to know Abraham apart from the promise. It is about being Israel—the Israel of God, the promise.

When God renamed Jacob, He gave him a spiritual name, just like when He renamed Abram, He gave him a spiritual name. When God renamed Abram to Abraham, He changed the name from "exalted father" to "father of many nations," which would include the Gentiles, in anticipation that

they would come into Abraham’s lineage through Christ.⁶ So we have the natural and the spiritual. In the same way, when He renamed *Yaakob*, Jacob, the heel-grabber or the supplanter, He named him Israel:⁷ *el*⁸ is God, and the root of Israel is “prince of God.” He renamed him spiritually in anticipation of giving us a place in the genealogy of Christ, both naturally and spiritually.

The Lamb’s Book of Life, then, comprises of those who are the sons of God—who are the dwellers in heaven, who are the heirs of the promise,⁹ who are a royal priesthood¹⁰—totally different and totally distinct from those who dwell on the earth. Why is this so important? It is important inasmuch as it tells us that we are the fulfillment of promise. What that means is, we have an identity: we are identified with Christ. We are in Christ, and therefore we are identified as the sons of God—the dwellers of heaven, the ones of an eternal life.

You have to know who you are in these times if you are going to resist being reclassified as being of the earth, and therefore subject to Satan. The attack will be on our identity, and the attack will be on our purpose. If you can be reduced in your identity to a son of man, then you are also reduced in your purpose to survival. The beast will promise you survival while threatening your annihilation because he presses down, oppresses, devours, and crushes those who may be crushed, devoured, and tread down by the threat of not having enough. I am amazed at the fact that I see older people in their sixties, their seventies being the primary supporters of a politics of fear. I take no comfort in this because what it tells me is, they are not identified with the Lamb. They are not identified with heaven, and they have no identity in regard to the hope of God’s calling, God’s

⁶ See Genesis 17:5-6: “No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.”

⁷ See Genesis 32:26-29

⁸ See *el*, Strong’s Hebrew 410 - <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/410.htm>

⁹ See Galatians 3:29: “And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

¹⁰ See 1 Peter 2:9-10: “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

glorious inheritance in the saints, and the working of God’s mighty power¹¹—all three things as the fundamental premise of the Book of Ephesians which was written by Paul for the express purpose of revealing the wisdom and counsel of God in regard to our identity and our purpose.

All of that is what we mean by “being in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” The Lamb’s Book of Life is not a book that will eventually be opened to reveal the secret of those who made it into the book. “We may rejoice now,” as Jesus told His disciples, “that our names are written in the book,”¹² because that is what we know. We have the Spirit of truth; we can discern accurately. That is just on the Book of the Lamb who was slain.

In Revelation, chapter 13, verse 11, he says,

I saw another beast coming up out of the earth... (Revelation 13:11a).

This first beast came up out of the sea.¹³ It means it arose from among humanity, from the sea of nations, as it were. I have gone through and deconstructed all of that in previous messages. But with this beast who comes up out of the earth, the reference to the earth is those who have a demonic wisdom because it is the wisdom of carnality and it is the wisdom of deception. It knows how the world thinks. You see, the *kosmos*¹⁴ was established by Satan to capture the souls of men in the fear of lack, in the fear of not having sufficiency of provision and protection. When it speaks of this beast coming up out of the earth, it is a reference to its knowledge and its complete familiarity with how people who are carnal think. Can you hear me? It knows how carnal people think. It knows how to trap people by threatening their provision and their protection.

¹¹ See Ephesians 1:18-19: “...the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power...”

¹² See Luke 10:18-20: “And He said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.’”

¹³ See Revelation 13:1: “Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.”

¹⁴ See *kosmos*, Strong’s Greek 2889 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/2889.htm>

In my seventy years of life, I have never seen more older Christians scared to death. Their sole and exclusive reason for their involvement in politics is all about their fear of not having enough. It is as though the veil has been pulled back and God is saying to the church, “This is who you really are. This is who you have become.” All of those political and social and religious leaders who are popular, almost without exception, are popular because they are the best at working you up into a lather over your fear. The only way off of that island is by trusting in the Lamb.

Why does he even say, “the Lamb who was slain from the foundations of the world”? Because the Lamb is a reference to sacrifice, the animal that was sacrificed; and to be slain is how He was sacrificed. It means when God required it, He held nothing back—He trusted God. What did God do? Well, first He did not keep Him from dying because He knew that the freedom from death lies in the pathway of dying. In order to be free from death, you cannot merely be kept from the fear of it by avoidance. Avoiding death is never an answer that allows you to overcome that fear. Going through death and then being resurrected is the only way. I will repeat, it is the only way to overcome fear.

A second beast comes up out of the earth. He is the merchant of fear. Listen, there is no way you can escape these deceptive personages because they know how your soul thinks. They know your soul better than you know your soul, and they have crafted their appeal to your soul as finely as that might be crafted and far better than you could even detect. That is why it is called deception. You cannot rely on your ability, because you read it in the Bible that one day there will appear the compendium of lawlessness in the form of a man, that you are going to be able somehow to dodge this character. You are not. This beast who rises, this is the man of lawlessness. He arises from the earth. He does not arise from the truth; he arises from the earth. This is the man of lawlessness—this second beast. He arises out of the popularity, the acclaim of men. He is popular and he is acclaimed precisely because he knows how to torment you with the worst of your fears. That is what we are looking at. He comes up out of the earth. Now you understand, he arises out of your fears—the popular and common fears of the collection of human beings.

He comes up out of the earth, and look at him:

...and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon (Revelation 13:11b).

What is this about “two horns like a lamb”? He looks like the Lamb—horns, soundings, power. When you read about the Lamb here in the Book of Revelation, chapters 5 and 6, He is not a Lamb with two horns; He is a Lamb with seven horns and seven eyes.¹⁵ Which means, if the horn is the power of the animal, a seven-horned lamb is all powerful, because seven is the number of completeness, perfection. This one has two horns, so it is more natural looking, if you like; although, we are not really talking about natural things. He is natural looking, which means he will speak great things and blasphemies, but they will appeal to those who are not familiar with the seven-horned Lamb; they will appeal to your natural senses. So his sayings, what he sounds—if you take the second meaning of the word “horn” to mean “a trumpet”—part of what he says sounds right. But it says, “And he spoke like a dragon.” In other words, even though it appeals to those who are perishing, the true meaning of what he is saying is in full furtherance of the mindset of the dragon. He exercises all the authority of the seven-headed, ten-horned beast,¹⁶ so he is a surrogate with a limited purpose. He is not the beast, but he exercises all the subtleties, all of the cultural and spiritual implications of this beast.

He is the persuader, and because of what he does...

He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men (Revelation 13:13).

...because he does that, he is a religious figure. I just read what he does. Now I want you to go back and look at the man of lawlessness. Verse 9,

¹⁵ See Revelation 5:6: “And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”

¹⁶ See Revelation 13:12: “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.”

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish... (2 Thessalonians, 2:9-10a).

What did it say? You just read that; keep that in mind while we go back to the Book of Revelation, the 13th chapter, and let us read it again. It says,

He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived (Revelation 13:13-14).

This is the lawless one, and he enforces his deception. He puts his deception on display through signs and lying wonders. This is the one whose number is 666.¹⁷

I am Sam Soleyn, and we are right on the edge of unpacking this thing for you. I will talk to you again soon. Bye-bye.

¹⁷ See Revelation 13:18: “Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.”