**FOCUS** in 2020

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**REVELATION**

***Enduring Wisdom –*** Revelation 13-14



Can you spot a **fake**?

A **Fake** Trinity

* The **Dragon** – a fake Father
* The **Beast** – a fake Christ
* The **2nd Beast** or **False** **Prophet** – a fake Holy Spirit

Do not be **deceived** into following a fake god.

And **I saw a beast rising out of the sea**, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear’s, and its mouth was like a lion’s mouth. And to it the dragon gave his **power** and his **throne** and great **authority**. One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its **mortal wound was healed**, and **the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast**. And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “**Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?**” Revelation 13:1–4

A **fake** Christ can only offer a fake **future**.

A fake god will use power **against** people ... **not** for them.

And the beast was given a mouth uttering **haughty and blasphemous words**, and it was **allowed to exercise authority** for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. Also, it was **allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them**. And **authority was given** it over every **tribe** and **people** and **language** and **nation**, and all who dwell on earth will worship it, **everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain**. Revelation 13:5-8

**LISTEN UP!**

**If anyone has an ear, let him hear**: If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. **Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.** Revelation 13:9-10

Two things make all the difference – **endurance** and **faith**.

For the time is coming when **people will not endure sound teaching**, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will **turn away from listening to the truth** and **wander off into myths**. As for **you**, always **be sober-minded**, **endure suffering**, do the **work of an evangelist**, **fulfill your ministry**. 2 Timothy 4:3–5

**Count it all joy**, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that **the testing of your faith produces steadfastness**. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2–4

A fake god will **give** people what they **want**.

**Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth**. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and **makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast**, whose mortal wound was healed. **It performs great signs**, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast **it deceives those who dwell on earth**, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might **cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain**. Revelation 13:11-15

The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because **they refused to love the truth and so be saved**. 2 Thessalonians 2:9–10

A fake god will fool the **foolish**.

The **fool says** in his heart, “**There is no God**.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. Psalm 14:1

Also, it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave**, to be marked** on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. **This calls for wisdom**: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the **number of a man**, and **his number is 666**. Revelation 13:16-18

**LISTEN UP!**

This calls for **wisdom**.

There is only one true **Savior** and one true **church**.

Then I looked, and behold, **on Mount Zion stood the Lamb**, and with him **144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads.** And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and **they were singing a new song** before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song **except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.** It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as first fruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless. Revelation 14:1–5

There is only one true **Gospel** of hope.

Then I saw **another angel** flying directly overhead, with **an eternal gospel to proclaim** to those who dwell on earth, to every **nation** and **tribe** and **language** and **people**. And he said with a loud voice, “*Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and* ***worship him*** *who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water*.” Another angel, a second, followed, saying, *“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality*.” Revelation 14:6-8

What brings you **hope** gets your **worship**.

And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, *“If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have* ***no rest****, day or night,* ***these worshipers of the beast and its image****, and whoever receives the mark of its name.”* Revelation 14:9-11

**LISTEN UP!**

**Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.** And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: **Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on**.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, **for their deeds follow them**!” Revelation 14:12-13

There is a **good** death.

There is only one true just **Judge** for all humanity.

I charge you in the presence of God and of **Christ Jesus**, who is to **judge the living and the dead**, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 Timothy 4:1

Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud **one like a son of man**, with a **golden crown on his head**, and a sharp sickle in his hand. And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, *“Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.”* So, he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and **the earth was reaped**. Revelation 14:14–16

A judgement of **horrific** consequence!

Then **another angel** came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. And **another angel** came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, *“Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.”* So, the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into **the great winepress of the wrath of God**. And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse’s bridle, for 1,600 stadia. Revelation 14:14–20

**How can I have enduring wisdom?**

**1.** Hold on to the **truth** of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**2.** Let the **Bible** shape your faith, not the words and ways of the world around you.

**3.** Live your **faith** in Jesus everyday while looking toward your **eternal** home.

**4.** Point the **way** to Jesus through your words and your deeds.

**A Benediction for our times**

And **we urge you**, brothers, **admonish** the idle, **encourage** the fainthearted, **help** the weak, **be patient** with them all**.** See that **no one repays anyone evil** for evil, but always **seek to do good** to one another and to everyone. **Rejoice** always, **pray** without ceasing, **give** **thanks** in all circumstances; for this is the **will of God** in Christ Jesus for you. **Do not** quench the Spirit. **Do not** despise prophecies, but **test everything; hold fast** what is **good**. **Abstain** from every form of **evil**.

**Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely,** and may your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **He who calls you is faithful**; **he will surely do it**. 1 Thessalonians 5:14–24