

## **THE VICTORY OVER THE BEAST**

### **Protect Yourself from Satan's Identity Theft**

In addition to the historical applications of the symbols of 'Babylon,' the 'dragon,' the 'beast,' and the 'false prophet,' you can also consider these symbols as divinely inspired cartoons depicting Satan's attempt to counterfeit Jesus Christ and His saving work in some most clever ways. [What you are about to learn in this seminar does not discard the historical-prophetic applications of the beast to last-day events, but rather looks at all the personal and experiential applications of the 'beast principle' wherever these is found in Scripture].

#### **The Lamb**

- Receives authority from God
- Seven horns
- Seven eyes
- Accused of blasphemy
- Was, is, and is to come
- Ministers for 3 ½ years
- Sustains the saints
- Is slain
- And resurrected
- Gives freedom to followers
- Worshipers of the Lamb rest
- Sends Holy Spirit to lead people to worship the Lamb
- Reproduces 'image of Christ' in followers
- Seals followers in forehead
- Has a bride – Jerusalem

#### **The Beast**

- Receives authority from the dragon
- Seven heads and ten horns
- Ten crowns on head,
- Has names of blasphemy
- Was, is not, and yet is
- Continues for 42 months
- Persecutes the saints
- Receives a deadly wound
- Deadly wound is healed
- Leads to captivity
- Worshipers have no rest
- False prophet leads people to worship the beast
- Reproduces 'image to beast' in followers
- Marks followers in forehead or hand
- Has a harlot – Babylon

The 'beast' represents an impersonation of Jesus Christ. Through His attempted theft of Christ's identity he also thereby seeks to steal your identity. Satan wants to steal your identity because your identity is like the operating system of a computer; he wants the personal internal 'operating system' of your life to crash. In addition, your spiritual immune system also resides in your identity. Destroy that immune system, and your life is open to the attacks of the viruses of the enemy. The core of idolatry is spiritual identity theft.

#### **Definitions of Idolatry:**

- It is when anyone or anything receives more glory, honor and praise than God and His Son, Jesus Christ.
- An idol is a picture of a god as we fashion Him to be. It is man making a god in man's image.
- Idols are our man-made replacements for the living Creator- God, created in our minds when we do not believe that our God is doing His work.

- Idolatry is the attempt to control our lives by a god (or gods), custom-designed in our image, to do the God's work in our lives, when we believe the lie that God is not BIG enough to handle anything.
- Covetousness is idolatry (Colossians 3:6).
- Idolatry is trusting people, possessions, position, and power to do for us what only God can do.

### **Idolatry as Identity Theft:**

- In the Garden of Eden – Satan suggested that...
  1. Eve's life was incomplete
  2. She could replace God by being god herself.
- At Mt. Sinai – the anatomy of idolatry:
  1. They coveted a god they could see and control.
  2. They made such a god, the golden calf.
- In the wilderness temptations of Jesus Satan suggested that...
  1. Jesus should doubt His identity as the Son of God.
  2. Jesus should discard His identity (based on God's truth) and establish His own identity on what He could do.

**Satan's ultimate identity theft** starts with the lie that *Your worth = your performance + others' opinions about you*. This results in the loss of your God-given identity which says that - *Your worth = God's truths about you*. God expressed your true worth by the value He placed upon you in creation and by the price He paid for your redemption at Calvary's cross.

**Detect the Virus of the Beast (the lies of Satan):** Idolatry is essentially trying to build our own identity – making a name for ourselves – on our own works rather than trusting in the covenant faithfulness of our great Creator God. In idolatry we believe the lie of Satan that our God is NOT enough! Here is the subtle downward spiral of idolatry. Notice how the breaking of just one commandment (the 10<sup>th</sup>) leads to the breaking of many other commandments.

- Discontent with God and His work in your life leads to covetousness (breaking the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment). This may be motivated by anger and hurt arising from “*if only...*” thoughts rooted in personal woundedness. Covetousness is lusting for what others have or are and which you think you deserve. All covetousness is idolatry (Ephesians 5:5).
- You engage in idol-making by choosing another god (object, activity, relationship, possessions, position, power) to fulfill the covetous lusts of your heart (breaking the 1<sup>st</sup> commandment). You design a god in the thoughts of your mind who will do a better job than the Creator-God.
- You make that other god [idol] in your own image, and in the process the idol imprints its image on your own life (breaking the

- 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment). You become just like the idol you serve. All idolatry is spiritual harlotry – the Babylon principle (James 4:1-6).
- Rather than trusting in the sufficiency of God’s great and glorious names, you take God’s name in vain (breaking the 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment) by trying to make a name for yourself through your idol. You play god by using God’s name for your own agendas, and thus you give the idol power and authority to do its work. You may even be willing, like Nebuchadnezzar, to sacrifice others to your idol. When others do not recognize your false identity residing in your idol, you have a ‘bad day.’
  - You receive the number of the beast [6], which is God’s rating of your life when you trust in an idol to do God’s work for Him. The number six also represent the stress and tension in your life, because you do not rest in the completeness and sufficiency of God’s work for you symbolized by His number – 7. “...they have no rest day or night” (Revelation 14:11).

The power of idolatry does not lie in the idol itself, but more in the thoughts (lies) we tell ourselves about our idol. We are essentially investing our idols (beasts) with tasks they are unable to perform because they are not God. For a complete description of the downward spiral of idolatry read Romans 1:18-32. Idolatry is the pursuit of the lusts of our hearts with no regard to how it may destroy us or damage the lives of others. **The more we try to control our lives, the more we lose control.** If you want to gain the victory over Satan’s end-time deceptions, you must now be alert to how the enemy may already have implanted the virus of his lies in your life.

### **God’s Solution to a Secure Identity**

God wants to express Himself through your life. When you are busy expressing yourself, then you are not revealing God. Idol worship is expressing your own identity, your own ego, making room for ‘ME.’ God wants us to recognize how Satan’s identity theft has damaged our lives, and He wants us to rebuild our lives based on our authentic identity as found in Him.

Those who win the victory over the beast, his image, his name and his number will discard their make-believe identity. They will express their new identity in a song that totally focuses on God. “*Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just as true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come*

and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested” (Revelation 15:2-4).

The Covenant in the Commandments	God's Truths	Satan's Lies	Sealed or marked?
<i>I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt</i>	Receive salvation as a gift	Earn your salvation	
1. <i>You shall have no other gods before me</i>	God is sufficient!	God is <u>not</u> adequate! You need to help Him do a better job.	
2. <i>You shall not make a graven <u>image</u>, you shall not bow down and serve them...for I the Lord am a jealous God...</i>	You are enough!  Let God express Himself (his image) through you.  (right image)	You are <u>not</u> enough!  Express yourself through the image of your idol  (wrong image)	Whose <u>im- age</u> ?
3. <i>You shall not take the <u>name</u> of the Lord your God in vain.</i>	Who you are determines what you do.  (secure identity)	What you do determines who you are.  (damaged identity)	Whose <u>name</u> ?
4. <i>Remember the Sabbath day (the 7<sup>th</sup> day) to keep it holy.</i>	Completeness  Rest	Your life is incomplete.  No rest	Whose <u>number</u> ?

**To worship is to discover...**

- our true identity and God’s highest destiny for us.
- our fullest personal worth as we declare what God is worth and we give Him what He is worth.
- His sufficiency for our deepest needs.

The best protection against the worship of the beast is the genuine worship Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God “*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and blessing*” (Revelation 5:12).

**Base Your Life on These Incontrovertible Facts of Faith:**

*“Because of Christ’s redemption  
I am a new creation of infinite worth. I am deeply loved,  
I am completely forgiven, I am fully pleasing,  
I am totally accepted by God, I am absolutely complete in Christ.”*