

# The Unholy Trinity

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[ 0 : 00 ]     Good morning. Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior.

We're on. It's good to see the church fill up and each one of you here to worship together.

Father, I don't know how your week was. All of us would have a different story of how our week went.

I know ours was quite busy. But as we look at those kind of things, I thought of Hebrews chapter 1, the first couple verses.

That the Lord is in our life every day and sustaining us. I just want to read those. So no matter what you went through this week or what you're going through even this morning, the Lord is sustaining you.

[ 1 : 09 ]     And the first three verses, just so that makes sense, says, God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by his Son, whom he has appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds, who being the brightness of his glory and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high.

So our Lord, who has purged us, cleansed us from our sin, and has sat down, it is that same Lord that is upholding all things by the word of his power.

your very life, day to day. So may we take comfort and assurance that the Lord is in your life upholding all things.

And I believe this is more than the physical universe. He does that as well, but it's our very breath. And Brother Jake mentioned, you know, who wakes us in the morning or gives us health to get up?

The Lord upholds us by the word of his power. So that's a word of encouragement this morning as we begin. I wanted to also share a thank you, and I apologize for the tardiness in this, but going back a month to the grad sale, which was quite last minute planned, I want to thank everyone that was involved and came and helped, and especially to the youth that did a lot of burger sales.

[ 3 : 18 ]     It was kind of spur of the moment or in support of the foods grain bank, and yet the Lord blessed it in that we had raised more funds than any other grad sale.

And so it was very close to \$3,800 that was raised clear profits, and so that was handed in to the food grains committee.

And so we will be receiving a thank you from them yet, formally they said, but it will be posted in the back when we do. But just an appreciation of pulling together to make these things happen.

We have been going through revelations, the last two messages that I've done, focused on spiritual warfare, and I called it the invisible war, where God's chief enemy, Satan, our chief enemy, is struggling, is fighting everything that God stands for.

And as we're working our way through, and what we are going to be covering this morning is climax, the ending to this warfare as we work through the book of Revelations.

- [ 4 : 51 ]     And so I've entitled the message this morning, The Unholy Trinity. The Unholy Trinity. What's a counterfeit?
- A fake duplicate. Okay? That's probably as good as a definition as we can get. A fake duplicate. So something that is not the real thing, but is made to look like the real thing.
- And that is what we see in Satan's activities here at the end, is that he is a counterfeit, trying to look like the real thing, and yet he is not.
- And when the apostles in the Passion Week, in the last week in Jerusalem, and they were on the Mount of Olives and they were looking down on the Temple Mount and Jesus says, you know, not one stone will be left upon another.
- And they ask, what will be the signs of all these things happening? What were Jesus' first words? Take heed.
- [ 6 : 21 ]     Deception. Deception. That no one deceives you. That is going to be the theme of the day.
- That's going to be the theme of the end. Deception. How do we define deception? To be deceived.
- Deceived. Deceived. Deceived. Deceived. Deceived. Believing the lie.
- There we have it. To believe falsehood and to accept it as truth. We look at our societies, at our world governments.
- What do we see? we have deception, we have deception, I believe, at a higher level than ever before. They are believing the lies of the devil.
- [ 7 : 28 ]     people. And as Christians, we look at what they believe and we shake our heads, how can they?
- How can they be so so blind?
- Thank you. That's a very gracious word. I had other words in mind. Thank you. How can they be so blind? You know, you shake your head at that.
- But it's because of deception. they are falling for the lies that are being fed. And so, as we go into this chapter, we're going to look at some backdrop regarding Satan.
- But for us, as we go through this, to keep in mind, 1 Peter 5, verse 8, and I'll just read it to you. It says, Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, your enemy, the devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, consume.
- [ 8 : 57 ]     And that verse is intended for the church. that we are to take heed, to be sober.
- We're to think clear-minded, and to be vigilant, to be awake, deliberately awake, intense, focused on the truth.
- Because Satan is looking for people to eat, to consume. and he does it through lies. Let's start in John 8, 44.
- Very familiar verse. John 8, 44. Portraying Satan as the father of deception. So the Gospel of John.
- It's good to see it again, if you know that off by heart. And it's good to see it again. It's good to see it again, if you know that off by heart. Jesus disputing or reasoning with the Pharisees, and he says to them, you are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.
- [ 10 : 14 ]     He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. For he is a liar and the father of it.
- He is the father of death, a murderer, and a liar, untruth. That's what he stands for.

And so, of course, that then would only make sense that he is ruling the world. The non-church, so to speak, that he is at work feeding untruth and killing, keeping spiritual life from people through his lies.

Secondly, 2 Corinthians 11. A few verses there. 2 Corinthians 11. 2 Corinthians 11.

2 Corinthians 11. 2 Corinthians 11. 13. 3 Corinthians 11. 3 Corinthians 11. 3 Corinthians 11. And we'll go verses 13 through 15.

[ 11 : 34 ] He's speaking of false teachers and churches and creeping in. And verse 13 says, So we talk about deception, Satan himself transforming himself as an angel of light.

He is in truth an angel of, let's hear it, darkness, an angel of darkness.

And he is putting up a front an angel of light. And light is associated with, Jesus says, I am the light of the world. And so this is deception.

And so he has his people false teachers but putting up a front. And so we need to heed Jesus' warning, beware of deception.

using truths, half-truths, but not the completeness of the Bible. And so we are to take heed, to be sober, to be vigilant.

[ 13 : 20 ] And then in preparation for Revelation 13, let's turn to 2 Thessalonians chapter 2. And it gives us a good and excellent backdrop to the unholy trinity.

So 2 Thessalonians chapter 2. And we'll start in verse 3.

And we'll read right through verse 12. Let no one deceive you by any means, for that day, the day of the Lord, will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Now, back when Jesus, not when Jesus, when Satan was named Lucifer, and he exalted himself, what did he say?

I will be like the Most High. What is he doing here? He is portraying, setting himself up here on earth as God.

[ 14 : 58 ] And as we'll see a bit later in chapter 13, that he actually sets himself up as the triune God. Deception.

Deception. Trying to fulfill scripture as much as he can in an underhanded false way. Let's keep on reading in Thessalonians. verse 5.

Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. Satan is at work in our world today, deceiving, preparing, and yet he is being restrained.

He does not have free will to climax in all his ways. The Lord is restraining him. And in a prior message, I looked at this, that very likely this is a reference to the church, the Holy Spirit working through believers as a restraining force.

[ 16 : 28 ] But when that is removed, we're going to see the fullness of unrestraint. And verse 9. 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, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

So he's going to come with unrighteous deception. He's going to come with power, with signs, lying wonders. unbelievers. Very deceptive.

And for the unbeliever, it's going to appear to be the reality, the truth. They're going to take that as this is God.

They're going to fall for it, in other words. And for this reason, in verse 11, God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

[ 17 : 44 ] So they will be deluded into swallowing the deception, the lies, and to actually accept it as truth. And they will be condemned.

And so this is, in Thessalonians, a backdrop of teaching that Paul gave to the church in Thessalonica, and it prepares us, or prepared that church and us for revelations.

So with that, let's turn back to Revelations 13, and let's just look at this chapter. verse 1 in chapter 13, And 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.

There's a lot of detail here. We're going to be maybe bombarded with information this morning, but as John witnesses a beast rising out of the sand of the sea, or out of the sea, having the seven heads and ten horns, the sea here is generally believed to be symbolic of the nations, rising from out of the nations.

The beast here, the identity of the beast, is that of the antichrist. So we had in chapter 12 the sign of the dragon, Satan, and now we have the beast, the antichrist.

[ 19 : 38 ] And so we have the first two persons in this unholy trinity revealed. Satan as God, the father, and coming to earth, the antichrist as the son, the savior, the messiah, the one who's going to rescue the world from chaos.

And he rises from amongst the nations. We have a clue as to where he will come from. There's lots of speculation.

I generally tune out to that. But we have one clue in Daniel, and I thought it would be good to turn there. Daniel chapter 9. We're going to be turning back and forth quite a bit.

Daniel chapter 9. Daniel chapter 9. And verse 26.

And it's the prophecy of the 70 weeks. But we're going to focus not on the weeks itself as we've looked at this prior. But verse 26.

[ 20 : 57 ] And after the 62 weeks, Messiah shall be cut off, but not for himself. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary, and the end of it shall be with a flood.

And our clue is right there in that verse, that after the first seven and then 62 weeks, Messiah will be cut off. That we have discussed was Palm Sunday, riding into Jerusalem to die.

But then he follows and he says, and the people of the prince who is to come, the Antichrist, the people of where the Antichrist will come from will destroy the city and the sanctuary.

When did that happen? In A.D. 70. And who did it? The Roman Empire destroyed the city and the sanctuary.

And here we have a clue that the people of the prince to come, a reference to the Antichrist. So I believe that the Antichrist will likely come out of the revived Roman Empire, out of that, out of those nations.

[ 22 : 29 ] I mean, that's quite broad yet, but there's so much speculation out there, we need to just leave it, but these verses speak though.

It's going to be out of that people group, the Roman Empire. So back to Revelations 13. So the beast rising out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns.

The seven heads here are a reference, generally agreed upon, to the seven previous world governments.

So the Antichrist is representing the fulfillment or the climax of human government.

And the seven heads, the seven governments in history begin with Egypt, in church history, or not church but the Bible history, Assyria, and then Babylon, and then Persia, and then the Greeks, Greece, and then Rome, and then the future revived Roman Empire.

[ 23 : 54 ] The seven heads that this beast represents. And he is the climax or fulfillment of all human government. And we'll see, if we skip down to verse 2, let's do that momentarily.

Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. Again, those three animals, where have we seen them before?

Daniel. Daniel. And let's turn there. Let's turn to Daniel chapter 7.

Daniel chapter 7. The book of Daniel speaks much preparing us for revelations.

Daniel. And let's start right in verse 1, in Daniel 7.

[ 25 : 18 ] In the first year of Belshazzar, king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. And then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.

Daniel spoke, saying, I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea, and four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

The first was like a lion and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off and was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

And suddenly another beast, a second like a bear, it was raised up on one side and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth, and they said, thus, to it arise, devour much flesh.

And after this I looked, and there was another like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

[ 26 : 23 ] So if we remember in chapter two of Daniel, the statue, the vision that Nebuchadnezzar had, the head of the gold, and the chest and arms of silver, and the waist and thighs of bronze, and the feet, or the legs and feet of clay, representing the four world kingdoms at his time, and the head of gold was Babylon, and the silver represented the Medes and the Persians, and the bronze, the Greeks that would come.

This is all history for us. And then that last two-part kingdom, the legs of iron being the Roman Empire, and then the toes, the ten toes, partly fragile, mixed with clay, being the revived Roman Empire.

Well, a sequential dream in chapter seven, where he sees these animals representing the same four kingdoms, and we have the lion, representing Babylon, and then we have the bear, the Medes and the Persians, and then the leopard, the Greeks.

And we have it repeated in Revelations 13. And so what is it telling us? That what Daniel saw is that God is going to bring about the end of human government.

the Antichrist will be the climax of human government. It's in preparation for the kingdom where Jesus will rule.

[ 28 : 10 ] But yet, the Antichrist is coming symbolizing all humanity fallen from God. God is coming to God.

And I love the illustration in chapter two of Daniel where as Daniel watches this big image representing all these things, and then a stone made without hands crushes the image into powder.

And then the stone fills the whole earth. it's a picture of Jesus Christ conquering human governments and coming to be the king here on earth.

The thousand year reign. The scriptures coming together. Back to Revelations 13.

Revelation Okay, so we have the beast rising with the seven heads.

[ 29 : 24 ] The ten horns. Also, explain to us in Daniel that there are ten kings that will rise. Daniel 7.

I won't turn there. You can read that for yourself. Daniel 7, 23 to 25, explains who these kings are or what they will be.

These ten crowns and horns, there will be ten kings. And even today, we see the world dividing into compartments.

And I may have mentioned before, but even in the financial world, in the banking world, there are ten regions in the world. in the world of banking.

They've divided it into ten, the whole world, and banks are conforming to this. That's all behind the scenes that we don't, the average guy doesn't realize this.

[ 30 : 25 ] So things are being prepared for the end. God's name is God's name. And so he had ten horns and ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name, and that represents that it's satanic.

It's associated with Satan. And then verse 2, we had looked at that, the beast was like the leopard, bird, so it was a combination of all human government, of the Romans, or not of the Romans, of the Babylonians, and of the Persians, and of the Greeks, a mix of all that together represents this beast.

The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. Who is the dragon? Satan.

And the beast is the Antichrist, and the dragon gives the Antichrist all his power, his throne, and great authority. God the Father gave his Son authority, great power, and a throne.

We see the resemblance, counterfeit, deception. And I saw, in verse 3, one of his heads as had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed, and all the world marveled and followed the beast.

[ 32 : 08 ] There's generally two explanations given for this mortal wound, or deadly wound, and of his heads, the seven heads, heads. And so some will take this as in that one of his kings will be killed and come back to life.

I understand this rather that of the seven human governments that have been, the last one, the Roman government came to an end in 473.

It lost its political influence in the world, and it will be revived. I lean more towards that explanation as it fits the context the best.

beast. And the world will marvel at the Roman empire coming back to life in its form with ten kings.

And so I'll let you puzzle that out for yourself. Study up on it. And so verse 4, so they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast saying, who is like the beast, who is able to make war with him?

[ 33 : 32 ] And so who is they? The world will worship not only the Antichrist but the beast, or the dragon as well, Satan.

Do we have the beginning of Satan worship today? It is gaining momentum. And it's actually becoming very public.

They're declarations of satanic worship. But here in Fobor, we're going to have Satan worship. And the Antichrist as his object here on earth to be worshiped.

The world is going to follow and worship, to give their glory and their honor to. Okay, verse 5, so the Antichrist, he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue 42 months.

So the Antichrist was given a mouth to speak great things. In Daniel, we are told that he spoke pompously, meaning great things, boastfully, or boastfully.

[ 34 : 53 ] And so the Antichrist will have charisma that he will have the gift of speech. He will speak big things, and people will be drawn in.

They will fall for it. It will be smooth talk. And it's going to be, again, part of the deception.

And it says he was given this mouth, and he was given authority to continue for 42 months. That's three and a half years. So we're now talking the last half of the tribulation period.

This final kingdom or human government will be set up in its full authority. And it says he is given that authority to continue till that time.

Who is giving him authority? Who is in control? God. And he will allow it for 42 months. And then Jesus will come.

[ 36 : 01 ] And he will make an end. Okay, verse 6. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God to blaspheme his name, his tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

So blaspheme against God. And so remember in Matthew 24, when you see the abomination of desolation in the temple, in the holy place, then flee to the mountains?

Here we are. Mid-tribulation period, the Antichrist will set himself up as God to be worshipped as God. And he blasphemes God and the tabernacle that has been built.

And so we're talking Jerusalem now and those who dwell in heaven. And so that will be the Jews' awakening that they have been deceived. That this is falsehood, deception.

verse 7, 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.

[ 37 : 19 ] Again, it was granted to him the Father, our God, the true God, will allow this to happen. and he will make war with the saints.

And remember in chapter 12 that when Satan was cast out of heaven or denied access to God's throne, and he went back to earth with fury to make war with the offspring.

And here it says he was granted authority to make war with the saints, and not only to make war, but to overcome them. And authority was given to him.

In chapter 12 we read that the saints loved not their lives unto death. And so the tribulation believers coming to faith, there will be martyrdom at the hands of the Antichrist.

And so that is the picture that we have here. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the book of life, and of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

[ 38 : 35 ] If anyone has an ear, let him hear. And so it'll be so deceptive, and the pressures that will come out of this, is that anyone who does not have clarity with God will fall under his pressure.

And as we end this chapter with the number 666 and not being able to buy and sell pressures of the Antichrist to enforce this worship.

But here, everyone that is not a child of God will surrender to the Antichrist as God to his ways.

And the whole world, minus the believers, will fall for this. Okay, let's skip down to verse 11.

Our time is going very fast. Verse 11. Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.

[ 39 : 55 ] 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.

We have a third person now on the scene. another beast. The first one we've identified as the Antichrist.

Well, this second beast is later called the false prophet. And we know at the return of Christ in chapter 19, after Armageddon, the first thing that Jesus does is he puts Antichrist and the false prophet into the lake of fire for all eternity.

So here is the third person in Satan's scheme of duplicating God. The role of the Holy Spirit.

Only he will be in the physical. evil. And so as we look at this, like a lamb, attractive, Jesus came as a lamb and spoke like a dragon, representing the power of Satan.

[ 41 : 24 ] Deceptive again. He exercises all the authority of the first beast and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast whose deadly wound was healed.

And so when we look at the role of the Holy Spirit that was sent to us, it is to turn our eyes to Jesus Christ. Is it not?

The Holy Spirit was given to us to turn our attention to Jesus Christ, our Savior. Here, the false prophet will turn the world to worship the other beast, the Antichrist.

Verse 13, it gets more interesting. 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. we see duplication as this false prophet will do miraculous things in the sight of men.

[ 42 : 44 ] Visible. So they see fire coming down from heaven. An act of God. But he was granted the power to do that.

Ultimate indeception. creation. And furthermore, in verse 14, he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which 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.

And so causing Satan's followers here, worshipers, to build an image to the beast.

So he's convincing. He doesn't even have to do it himself. He convinces the people of the world to create an image to this God. And then it says further, he was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

So they will make this image to Satan, the Antichrist, and then power is granted to give breath to the image of this beast and that it should speak and cause all non-worshippers to be put to death.

[ 44 : 16 ] Now, this verse or verses have caused great speculation. Does Satan have power to give life?

Does life not belong to God as the giver of life? As he breathed into Adam's nostrils and he became a living being.

there's again a couple of thoughts on what this could mean, what was intended here, and one is literally that God is allowing or granting this power to allow this delusion to happen.

The other is that with technology that we see today, that it will be a further deception with technology that this beast will seem to be alive and speaking.



However, you want to look at it, but it's going to be deception. It almost from the verbiage, it sounds like that image will come to life and will cause all all those who refuse to bow down to be put to death.

[ 45 : 44 ] And so we have the climax of deception here. In Daniel chapter 3, and that's a whole chapter story, so we won't turn there, but Nebuchadnezzar, he's the head of gold, he made a great statue, I think it was 70 feet tall, I forget how wide, 9 feet or something, and he said, let everybody at the sound of the flute and the music bow down and worship, and Daniel's three friends refused.

And what happened to them? They were put into the furnace, and God protected them there to show Nebuchadnezzar.

This is again, we see now that that story that happened for real is a prelude to what Satan is doing over here. An image is going to be made delusion, and those that will not worship will be put to death.

So this is the unholy God, I call the unholy trinity is the wording I've used here, as Satan seeks to duplicate our true God.

Okay, we'll read the last three verses in closing. Verse 16, he causes all both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark of the name of the beast or the number of his name.

[ 47 : 41 ] 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. And so we see the human kingdom governed by Satan himself causing undue hardship here on earth, that anyone who will not bow down will be denied access to all markets, to anything.

If you don't take the chip of the beast or the mark of the beast, whatever that's going to be, whether it's going to be a computer chip implanted into your wrist or forehead or whatever those technologies exist, they've actually tried them, that works, you can already get a chip in your palm and when you go to the grocery store you go like this and you paid.

And all your bank information is in that little chip. It's all there. Is that the exact fulfillment of this? Possibly.

But either way, it's going to be utmost control of the Antichrist. And so those that have given their life to Christ during this seven year period will face undue hardship.

that is reality. And perhaps as those who before the rapture have either not heard or not believed when they do believe during the tribulation will give their life.

[ 49 : 40 ] as a martyr. It doesn't say whether if 100% or 90% or 80% but it sounds like it's going to be huge.

Most of them. And remember in chapter 6 we read about the souls under the altar who cried out how long Lord? It's all tying together as we see Antichrist at work.

Let's close with that. It's a very sobering message this morning.

Sombering as we look at deception. But as we have some closing thoughts what can we do today?

thank you. The key to not being deceived is to know the truth.

[ 50 : 48 ] And this book is the truth. Turn off most of your media that gives you untruth.

And focus on the truth. The key method of deception today is through social media.

Social media by the way is not evil of itself but much of it is being used as a tool of Satan as well. So we have good in there as well but we need to focus on this.

And we will not be deceived. And that is the only recipe against deception. So I want to encourage us to not neglect that but rather focus on reading the word for yourself.

And as you do that these things will become more and more clear and any as we look at this growing up to read this chapter and that number it struck fear in my heart.

[ 52 : 07 ] You know that's a bad time coming and it just like a knife in my tummy twisting and the truth has set me free from that. We need not fear.

In fact God doesn't want us to fear if we're his children but rather to focus on truth. So may the Lord bless you and let's close in prayer.

Father we thank you for prophecy. It's a hard teaching and yet we realize Lord that you are just and righteous and holy and you need to bring evil to an end.

To bring about judgment and Lord ultimately to set up your kingdom. So these things need to come. But Father I'm grateful for your word this morning that gives us so much understanding to understand in the times we're in.

To see these things coming. And so Lord as we grasp these things bless us with these truths that we need not fear but rather look forward more and more to your coming.

[ 53 : 27 ] And Father may your will be done may your kingdom come. In Jesus name Amen.