

**THE SERMONS, LECTURES, AND SONGS OF  
SIDNEY EDWARD COX**

Revelation – Chapter 12 Ending  
Revelation – Chapters 13.  
The Two Beasts. The False Prophet.

**Editorial Note: This is a lecture by Sidney Cox that was part of a series of lectures on the Book of the Revelation that he taught while on the theological teaching faculty at the Toccoa Falls Bible Institute during the early part of 1962. He was 75 years of age at the time.**

**During the latter part of his life, Sidney Cox had developed a close relationship with the Christian and Missionary Alliance (“CMA”). CMA operates as a vast network of churches, similar to a “denomination.” Toccoa Falls Bible Institute was closely affiliated with the CMA, provided support to the Institute and the Institute sent many of its graduates into ministry within CMA churches. CMA and The Salvation Army, in which Sidney Cox served as an officer for 30 years previously in his life, share a similar theology and emphasis in Christian outreach.**

**From 1956 – 1960, Sidney and Violet Cox lived in Miami, Florida where Sidney was on the theological teaching faculty of the Miami Bible Institute, another CMA supported institution. They moved to Toccoa Falls, Georgia in 1960, where he served on the staff at the Toccoa Falls Bible Institute from 1960 – 1962.**

**As a lecture, he was obviously assuming that his students had prepared for class by reading and studying the pertinent scripture and other class material. Thus, his comments were not like a sermon, but lectures to enhance the students’ theological understanding. He emphasized a detailed study of the scripture and incorporated analysis that he gained from his study of Bible commentaries and books on the related subject matter. These lectures are remarkably free of any personal opinions, personal illustrations or “sermonizing” of any kind. While at other times in his career he was very much the preacher and evangelist, in these late-in-life roles of Bible Professor, he was very much the educator.**

**Lastly, it might be helpful to at least comment on the historical context in which these lectures were delivered. Many biblical scholars of that day associated some of what is found in the Book of Revelation with the Catholic Church – symbols of paganism, the movement of Satan/antichrist to establish one world church, etc. Many people viewed the Catholic Church with much skepticism and fear. Further, John F. Kennedy had just been elected the first Catholic president of the United States in 1960. His election was quite controversial and many non-Catholics were concerned about Kennedy’s catholic background. Elements of these concerns and mindset are found in these lectures. In 2008, many of these fears have been discredited and some would find them to be offensive and intolerant, but they were quite prevalent and not at all unusual in 1962.**

**John Douglas Cox, grandson of Sidney Cox. December 29, 2008.**

(audio begins with 5 seconds of another man's voice, then Sidney Cox begins taping over it)

E:\Sidney Cox Library Project\Subject Folders\Book of the Revelation. 1962. Toccoa Falls (Georgia) Bible Institute\Revelation Chapter 12-13 The Two Beasts. The False Prophet..doc

...and the child was taken up miraculously. Then you find that the antagonism of Satan is turned against the woman. Now, there's the explanation of why supernatural protection has to be given to this remnant of the Jewish people, why a place of refuge has to be prepared for them, and things of that kind. And you begin to get at least some explanations of it.<sup>1</sup>

Now, when you get into Chapter 13, of course, you have there the unfolding of the truth regarding the activity, not merely of Satan as a unit, but of the whole Satanic trinity. Now we haven't seen that before. That is, we've seen the activity of anti-Christ when he comes in this form and that, when he comes as the rider on the white horse. We've watched what he's been doing. We've watched God's answering judgments falling and seeing what he's doing, destroying that which is upon the earth, which is contrary to his will, both of people and things. And we have watched this. But we have not seen up to this point, the Satanic trinity.

And, if Satan's center, whatever that is, if Satan's center does not reveal a trinity, then there is one point where he has failed in his imitations of God, because Satan imitates everything that you find in the realm where God is central. Now, when you turn your eyes to that realm where God is central, you find you are looking at a trinity - God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. Now, when you turn to this center where Satan is in the midst of it, if the imitation is to be complete, you've got to see the same thing. And now in Chapter 13, you do find this thing unfolding before you. Satan mentioned in Chapter 12, now you find him coming, not merely as an individual, but incarnate, in his anti-Christ - in exactly the same way as the Godhead becomes incarnate in Christ.

Remember, if you please, that whenever the godhead is seen, it's always the Lord Jesus that you see. Nobody sees the Father. No one sees the Holy Spirit. But when the godhead becomes visible, it's always God the Son who is seen. He is the godhead made visible. Now, you look at it in this other realm and find exactly the same thing. You find here is someone who is the Satanic trinity, made visible. Anti-Christ is Satan made visible, always. Now, when you find Satan's power particularly being exercised, you've got to have somebody else, because all the way through in the operations of the godhead, you find God the Father originating, God the Son incarnating, and God the Holy Spirit, the all-powerful operating one. And so you've got three things - creating, incarnating, operating. And you find it all the way through. Even the Lord Jesus said he didn't do anything while he was down here except through the Holy Spirit. It was the operating power of the godhead in the person of the Holy Spirit. Now, you've got exactly the same thing.

(empty spot in the tape)...form and figure of two beasts. Now we watched from whence one of them came. He came from out of the midst of the sea, out of the nations of the world, obviously of Gentile origin. This is the thing that you see. Here is someone who is coming, who will be of Gentile origin. And coming out of the midst of the sea, out of the midst of the peoples, and out of the midst of a people or the peoples described in something connected with him - ten horns.<sup>2</sup> And you see this.

Now, without getting out and falling off the end of the log at all, let's remember that practically every thinking, reliable interpreter of this book can see in it a resemblance, at any rate, of the revived Roman

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<sup>1</sup> This is a concluding section of his discussion of Chapter 12 – of the woman clothed with the sun and the great red dragon.

<sup>2</sup> Revelation 13:1

Empire. And this is becoming so clear in our day that even those who may have looked askance at that thought a little while ago, can now see rising before our very eyes something that seems to point to that old Roman Empire. And you see it in such things as the European Common Market, where six of the ten great nations that made up the Roman Empire in days gone by are now all coming together; and then you can see the other four of them, all around the edges. And you begin to look at things like this. And you can't put them on one side when you begin to see the NATO organizations and that kind of thing.

And when you begin to hear such men as Winston Churchill, who was without doubt, one, if not the greatest figure that has arisen in recent years in the world, let alone just one place. We don't state that that is a finality, of course. But you look at him and you wonder, "Has anybody appeared greater than he?" Now, here is this man who has been such a central world figure, who has declared that in his last days he wants to see one thing accomplished; that with his remaining strength and his remaining time, he wants to contribute something toward one objective and it is the United States of Europe. Now, the United States of Europe, as we talk about them, when we talk about them, we're talking about the western part of it. We're talking about this side of the Iron Curtain. And here is a man whose great objective, he can die, I don't know happily, or not, I don't know whether he will die happily, but he can feel that he can die having accomplished something if he can only contribute toward that.

Now, you've got lots of things that point to this. It's coming up, and out of the midst of it there, there will come this one. He may look like a very ordinary person. He may not look like the super war-like person, this king of fierce countenance as Daniel described him at the first. But when this thing comes together, out of the midst of it will be this one.

He may be, as we have seen, somebody who was assassinated and then at this climactic moment, raised from the dead, in order that all the people might wonder. All the world wondered at the beast. Why? Why? Well, they wouldn't wonder simply because he was a super man. This is old world has been plagued with super men for the last fifty or sixty years. We've had one every little while, a super man of one kind or another. We've had Hitler and Mussolini and all the rest of them. We had them there in the First World War period. And here they were, the super men. Well, the world isn't going to get too much excited about that.

But if a super man is raised from the dead, then that's something else, isn't it? And it seems without getting into a realm where we don't belong, that there may be something to that thought - that in this moment when anti-Christ, Satan incarnate, is to actually take control, that there may something of that behind it. And you can read it and see it in this thought regarding the one who was and then died, and now is raised again. And you can see something like that in it all. Anyhow, here is this one. He's coming to take possession and he does. And you can see a good many things that are said about him - ten horns, ten crowns. He is the utmost in blasphemy.

And you can see where the blasphemy is centered. First of all, it's against the name of God. Now that's in worship. It's against the people of God. And you can see the worship, the name, the tabernacle of God and the people of God, them that dwell. And you can see all the way through, this is the thing that is taking place. The dragon gives him authority.<sup>3</sup> He has a deadly wound that is healed.<sup>4</sup> These are the

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3 Revelation 13:2

basic facts as revealed in the chapter. The time limit for his activity is three and a half years.<sup>5</sup>

Now, he makes war with the saints, that's those who believe in the Word of God and are prepared to suffer for their testimony. Now, we've seen that. It isn't the saints of the body of Christ. They're already far beyond his power. Nothing will ever touch them. They're already lifted out and are with their Lord and have been incorporated by the Holy Spirit into the one mystic body of which He is the head. Satan has no authority there anymore. Now, he has authority over these saints that are upon the earth that we have seen there and he does make war with them.<sup>6</sup> And it's a very interesting thing to see how this thing works out.

Now, we find, as we go along, the second of these personages that make up the trinity. The false prophet now appears. When you get half way down in this thirteenth chapter, here's the false prophet appearing. Now he is the one who is anti-Holy Spirit. Now, you won't find that universally accepted. There are those, and a good many very thoughtful men who write on this subject, who can see in these two beasts only one person. But the majority of them, I think, are those who can see two aspects of one personality. Just as the spirit is the spirit of Christ, so the false prophet is the spirit of anti-Christ. Now, let's look and what this book says about him.

You find two things, it's all under two headings. One, his person, and the other his work. Now, the first thing you find out about it is, he comes out of the earth, contrary to the other, who came out of the sea. And I think we mentioned, that whenever you find the earth mentioned in this fashion, it is always the land of Israel that is in mind. Now, here is somebody who is coming from out of the peoples of Israel - some descendant of Abraham. Now, one comes from the Gentile, one comes from the people of Israel. Now, I want you to see, and you think this through for the minute and then let's talk about it.

When the Holy Spirit is seen and is in evidence, He is not seen incarnate. He is not seen visibly at all. We are aware of Him. We love Him. We are aware of what He does. We are eternally grateful that in the wisdom and power and sovereignty of God, the Holy Spirit's work had some relationship to us, we are grateful. But we haven't seen Him. Now, you tell me please, what's the difference between this manifestation of the spirit of anti-Christ and the spirit of Christ? Now, I've almost told you there. You can see him, that's right.

The false prophet is somebody who becomes visible. He's not merely a voice. He's not merely a sound. He's not merely a personage that influences, not at all. He is actually to be seen. Now, we can see him and when he comes out of the midst of the earth.

By the way, I was reading only last night in a writer with whose work I was not too familiar, who gives a very interesting thought about that. He agrees that the false prophet would, in all probability, come from the Jewish people. And then he gives this thought: that it would appear as if he comes from out of the tribe of Dan. Now, remember something that we said a little while ago, and tell us why would that be a reasonable conjecture? Why? That's right. Dan is not included in this group of names of the children of Israel that appear in this book, and we know why. Why? Or at least we think we know

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4 Revelation 13:3

5 Revelation 13:5

6 Revelation 13:7

why. Why? That's right, it was through the doorway of the tribe of Dan that idolatry, like a river, flooded into Israel; and the consequences, this tribe, so intimately associated with this flood of idolatry is left out. Now, of course, we're conjecturing there. We're putting two and two together and hope we make four out of it there, and it seems reasonable there. But, if we find someday that we've been a little bit off, well, we'll apologize to somebody or other, and thank God that we know a little more than we do now.

Comes out of the earth. Now, remember again, he must be an imitation. If he is to be seen he is going to be seen not as the spirit of somebody, but as somebody. Now, he's going to be seen in an imitation form. If this one came, the executor of the Satanic godhead, came with a face that was blazing with fire, with a sword in his hand, with antagonism written all over him, you can quite see that his work would be opposed right from the very beginning. Does he come like that? What is the appearance of him? What? He comes like a lamb, but the point about it is this, that the moment he opens his mouth, then you know. He comes looking like a lamb, but he speaks like the dragon. Now, that's the second thing that we notice him.

Now, he's going to exercise the power that has been invested in him and his power centers in anti-Christ. That is, he's going to accomplish something for which anti-Christ was sent. Just as the Holy Spirit comes to make real the things of Christ, so the false prophet comes to make real the things of anti-Christ. Now, what does the Satanic trinity desire more than anything else? Property? Money? Power? What are they after? What was the crucial thing that happened in the wilderness temptation when you really saw the desire of Satan unmasked? (Student comments) They wanted to worship him, that's right, that's right. Everything else was secondary, everything. But that was the point. Now, if that is the case, the Satanic trinity is still desiring worship more than anything else. "I will be like God." Like God in what way? Not in power; not merely in possessions, but in worship. Now, here is this thing then.

What will the false prophet be doing if he is to make real the things of anti-Christ? What will be the central thing that he will be after? What? (Student comments) Yes, but what will he be after? What will be the central thing he will desire? Not your property. (Student comments) To worship him, that's right, that's right. Now, the whole activity of the false prophet, and remember, he is not spoken of as the false prophet in Chapter 13, but he is spoken of as the false prophet in Chapter 16 Verse 13; in Chapter 19 Verse 20; and in Chapter 20 Verse 10. So there are three definite references in which he is spoken of in these words, as the false prophet. Now, there isn't any question about it there.

And it's more than likely that this is the meaning of the reference in the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew and the 24<sup>th</sup> verse where we read, "For there shall arise false Christs (that's anti-Christ) and false prophets (here are the words of Jesus) and shall show great signs and wonders in so much that if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Now, here is the picture that was given there by our Lord in his Olivet Discourse.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> The Olivet Discourse is a biblical passage found in the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. It is known as the "Little Apocalypse" because it includes Jesus' descriptions of the end times, the use of apocalyptic language, and Jesus' warning to his followers that they will suffer tribulation and persecution before the ultimate triumph of the Kingdom of God. The Olivet discourse occurred just prior to the narrative of Jesus' passion beginning with the Anointing of Jesus. In the narrative is a discourse or sermon given by Jesus on the Mount of Olives, hence the name.

Now, let's see again. "He causes the earth to worship the beast."<sup>8</sup> And remember, the word "causeth", and you might be glad to add this to your notes, the word "causeth" appears eight times. He is causing things, causing things. Eight times you find that word "causeth" which simply points to the fact that this one is the power, the executor, the operating one of the Satanic trinity. Now again, he has power to do two things. One thing is to accomplish the other.

What two things does he do? He has power to accomplish what? (Student comments) Miracles is the first one. And the second one, he has power to what? (Student comments) To deceive, that's right. One is miracle, and the other is deception. And remember, the miracle is wrought in order that the second might be accomplished. In order to thoroughly deceive, he works miracles.<sup>9</sup> The power to perform miracles.

Now again, in order to give the impression that he may be somebody incarnate who belonged in the realm of God come back again, and remember, the people had thought that many and many a time. When the people looked and listened to John the Baptist, they wondered if he was not, who? Somebody coming from out of the altar. Elijah, that's right. And they wondered, is he Elijah? Now, here is somebody who comes and in this effort of deception begins to look like somebody and the very things he does will remind folks of Elijah.

Now, what things will he do that will remind them of Elijah? (Student comments) He calls fire from heaven, that's right, he calls fire from heaven.<sup>10</sup> Now, notice the next thing. He makes an image of the beast.<sup>11</sup> Now remember, he is the ultimate in blasphemy. And remember, the ultimate blasphemy is to put something in the place of God. Now, that's the ultimate in blasphemy.

Blasphemy is not merely using objectionable words, not at all. We talk about a man who uses objectionable words as being blasphemous. Well, there is a sense in which that is correct, and we don't need to change our thought about that. But blasphemy is the act of putting something in the place of God. Now, that's the ultimate. Now, there has never been in all the history of the world, except one brief figure that you see back there in the Old Testament that has ever been a substitute for God, an image of God, like this. Now, here is the thing he does again.

He makes an image of the beast. Now again, watch it. He makes that image to become, or to appear, and I don't mind which you think, there, because I'm not quite sure about it at all. I'm only thinking along with you, but what it says in here is he made that image to appear alive.<sup>12</sup> As if it had become endowed with some kind of life. Now, the thing that is evidence of that is seen in what? The image, now made, now made to appear as if it's alive - how did folks know, or become convinced, this image is alive? He speaks, that's right. He speaks. The image speaks.

Now, you'll remember that the one previous picture of that sort of thing is the image that you see in the

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8 Revelation 13:12

9 Revelation 13:14

10 Revelation 13:13

11 Revelation 13:14

12 Revelation 13:15

Book of Daniel where this great golden image is set up. Now, let's ask, did everybody fall down and worship it? No, what happened to those who did not? There was the effort to kill them, at any rate. They were supernaturally protected, that is true. But the antagonism was against them. There was one thing, either bow down or else.

And that is so now. There is the killing of those who refuse to worship. Now remember, that killing can be done in two ways. It can be done in the usual way by blood letting, or it can be done in another way. And it's just as well for us to remember that dictators who have got the mark of Satan upon them, in their effort to exterminate people who oppose them, and that's the thing that's been going on all the way along, they have killed far more people without blood letting than they have by that means. Now, let's look and see how this one is going to do it.

He's going to rid the earth of everybody who isn't going to bow down to this image, and he's going to do it - there will be those, of course, who will be slain by the sword. But there will be another method, a far more effective widespread method of exterminating people and it has been used by every single dictator that we can ever bring to mind. Now, let's look and see because here you're getting into something that is very interesting indeed - the mark of the beast.<sup>13</sup> Now, this is the thing that is compelled. They must bear upon, notice it, hand and forehead the mark of Satanic control. Just as the seal of the Spirit means divine ownership, so this mark of the beast implies Satanic ownership.

Now, let's look and see, hand and forehead. Now, what would that indicate? If he controls your hand, then what? (Student comments) Your activity; the product of your life; that which the life produces; your work is controlled. Now, if he controls the forehead and puts the mark on the forehead, then what does that indicate? (Student comments) Thinking, that's right. Thinking.

You know, there was an old man who preached a sermon here a couple of weeks ago, who started in by saying that there are two realms in this world and in the center of each there is a controlling personality and that controlling personality seeks to control first, by capturing your mind. Now, here we've got a picture of that. We've got the picture of Satan in the person of anti-Christ, by the power of the false prophet, controlling the thinking. And he controls the activity and then the thought. And, if there is any rebellion against that, then these folks are dealt with.

Remember, it is worship or starve. Now, remember what was said, and what is said? They couldn't buy anything. They had no right to subsistence of any kind unless they bore the mark of the false prophet - unless this mark was upon them. Now, call it ration cards, put it down in language that we can understand, and I don't think there's any objection to that at all. Let's put it down into language that we can understand. The final thing is, you either worship or you don't eat.

Now, let me read you something that came out in the Readers' Digest and was copied in one of the religious magazines, and this is what it says, right along that time in bearing out this thought - that every dictator has done exactly the same thing.

“Hitler's incineration chambers, where he liquidated such multitudes drew too much attention, as also did the public trials for cruelty and barbarism. The Soviets have devised mass extermination by class

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<sup>13</sup> Revelation 13:16

enemies by the least embarrassing method.” And then it goes on to say, “No ration cards, for instance, are permitted to certain Soviet satellite classes in Romania.” Now, this is in quotes. “When people shrivel gradually into corpses, there is nothing dramatic about it. No mass graves, no executioners, scarcely a ripple of ugly publicity. Hundreds of thousands, a little later millions, can be killed off virtually unperceived. Government doctors soberly write down the causes as tuberculosis, heart trouble, any number of the highly respectable diseases, all devastatingly prevalent throughout satellite Europe today. Perhaps this will be the method of exterminating one fourth of the Chinese, whose liquidation has already been purposed.”

Now, no need read anymore of it, but that came from the Readers' Digest in an article, copied into a magazine that you know quite well.

But anyhow, here is this thought. If it isn't by the sword, it will be by this method. And – “You've got to get rid of them. You've got to get rid of them.”

Now, the number of this one is spoken of as 666. And we're not going to talk very much about that, for an obvious reason. We don't know very much about it, there. I think I told you yesterday that I was reading that one man who confessed that he didn't know what that meant, said he did know that there's been 666 different interpretations of it. And that may be so.

Alright, now let's see and see if we can get one thought that may throw a ray of light into that darkness. It says here, “Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beasts; for (now this is the only clue to it) it is the number of a man; (it's a man number, it isn't a God number at all) and his number is three hundred threescore and six.”<sup>14</sup> 666.

Now, the usual explanations, and everybody says, “We don't know what that means.”, but if it's the number of man then we remember that God's number is seven, the number of perfection. And man's number, in the ultimate that he can do, falls short of that. And so you find a trinity falling short. Now, man's number, the earth number, has been six all the way along. Wherever you turn in the earth, you find the number six. It was created in six days, taking the Genesis account. Man created on the sixth day. You will find everything in which man becomes antagonistic to God, you will find the number six somewhere connected with it.

For instance, how tall was Goliath? He was six cubits high. He was six cubits high. Now, I'm not putting any interpretation on that - merely pointing out an interesting thing that we do see. How big was Nebuchadnezzar's image? It was sixty cubits high and six cubits wide. Now, I'm not putting any interpretation on that either, not at all. But here we do find this strange, interesting, thought provoking phenomena - that wherever you see man, you will find the number six.

And here is man, flesh, anti-God personified in three different ways: the Satan, and anti-Christ, and the false prophet - and on each one of them 666. Now, we may be a million miles away from the truth, but at least you can stop and look into something because if we're intended to have absolute 'two by two makes four' information about it, we would have been given that information. But we're not, we're not told. We are left in that way. I don't think there's any reason at all why we shouldn't attempt to let our

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14 Revelation 13:18

minds grasp something that seems to have reason to it, that it is the mark of man personified. And we know this, he falls short of the glory of God.

Now, with that we'll give out some test papers.

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