

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

Brief Review of Chapters 1 - 12
Revelation – Chapter 13
The Two Beasts

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.

Now will you turn please in your notes and in your Bible to the 13th Chapter of the Book of Revelation.

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

The 13th Chapter of the Book of Revelation.

And, before we go on with the material that lies before us, and it's very important indeed, before we do that, I want to remind you of one or two things. First of all, I want to remind you of the importance of keeping up to date with your own reading of this book that we are studying. I hope you won't get tired of it because sometimes we only cover a little bit of it. But I hope you won't get tired of reading it. Keep on reading it.

If there was any other way than that, I would suggest it to you, but there isn't any other way. You will either do that or else you will always remain along the secondary level as far as your understanding of the Word of God is concerned. Now, we all know that there is only one teacher. The Holy Spirit teaches us, and He will do it through the reading of the Word. You will learn more in the few quiet moments that you read with Him as your teacher than you will in a thousand classes. Now that works out. There's no question about that. It really works out. It's amazing what will happen when you consciously yield yourself to the Holy Spirit and let Him use the thing He's going to use, because he isn't going to use anything else. He isn't going to use the falls¹ and the stars and the blossoms, and all the rest of the things. He may point out to you how beautiful they are, but He's not going to use them for your spiritual understanding and growth. He's going to use the Word of God, that's all. And I don't think there's anything that delights the godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit more than to see some redeemed child of God with his face in the book. Now, don't overlook that. Please, don't overlook that.

Because one of the things that will come to you as, shall I say a temptation, but one of the things that will come to you will be the thought, "Well, we've been through thirteen chapters of this, and I've been reading it and we've been talking about Revelation. We can get along now by just skimming over the surface." My dear, you can't get along by just skimming over the surface. So let's do it, and let's be faithful about that.

Then another thing I want you to do, that I have said so many times, not only in this class, but other classes, I want you to keep on with the habit of thinking your way through the book. Now, there isn't any substitute for that either. That little quiet moment when, instead of filling the air with nothings, you could get away or even if you happen to be with somebody, if somebody's chattering in your ear, well it's amazing how the Lord will help you to close your ears to it and think about something else, if only you'd just ask Him to do that. Sometimes we have to do that. And in the midst of our chattering, or somebody's chattering, we can enjoy a little moment of silence. Now that's a fact, because sometimes that's the only way you'll ever get silence, is to be quite sure that God gives it to you in the midst of somebody's noise or something's noise. Now, you think your way through here.

We started in at the first chapter and we took a look at something. We watched a book being formed. We knew from whence it came. We watched the Father and the Son in cooperation, and then using a man that didn't amount to very much at all until God got hold of him. John wasn't one bit better than the rest of us until God got hold of him. And we watched the unfolding of this thing. We saw the curtain go back and that lovely picture of our Lord, and then we began to listen as we ought to listen for He said, "You better do this seven times." "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."² And we began to

¹ The preeminent landmark of Toccoa Falls, Georgia is a remarkable water fall in the nearby mountains.

² Revelation 2:7

listen to what He had to say to the churches that were actually here.

And then we went up into heaven and we saw something up there and we stayed in heaven for two chapters.³ Wasn't that wonderful that we could stay up there for two long chapters? And we didn't have to come down or even to look at things on the earth for two long chapters. And we saw the throne and all the rest of it. And then we began to see what was going on down here. And found ourselves in chilly atmosphere sometimes, and surrounded by mystery as if we were struggling to understand something or other, and got just a faint glimpse of it. And we went on, one thing after the other.

We watched ourselves up in heaven again and listened to a strange silence, for thirty minutes, at least that's the way it was stated in order to bring it down to our level of thinking.⁴ And we watched it all over again. We watched the movement all the way through of things on earth and things in heaven. We watched anti-Christ down here organizing a world. We watched what God is doing. Out of the midst of all that He's doing, gathering a remnant, to use the word that's there in the scriptures - a scriptural remnant of those who are Jews on the one side and Gentiles on the other. And we get some faint glimpse of what is in His mind and what He's doing there.

And then, as if the Holy Spirit turns back the pages and then says, "No, I want to give you a little further explanation," - we've been so busy looking at the thing that's happening that we haven't had time really to understand what has been happening.⁵ And He says "I want to tell you something about these things. I want to tell you about the one who's coming with the book in his hand to claim the inheritance." What a sight that was, wasn't it? And then, He says, as if taking us into His inner confidence, He says, "I want to tell you the secret of knowing the Word of God. You've just got to take it into your spiritual digestive system and make it a part of you, just like you take food into your bodily digestive system and it becomes a part of you. And you will find that this will happen. It'll be mighty sweet. And there will be some things about it, when you think of what the Word of God means to those who do not know what you know, and I'm not where you are in the family of God, when you look on the outside it'll be mighty bitter. Because there may be in that outside crowd somebody who's right close to you." And you may have that.

And then he says, "I want to tell you something about these two witnesses."⁶ We saw them there just a few minutes ago. And now I want to tell you something about them." And he says, "I'm not going to tell you who they are," see. "Now, you can figure it out and start in and conjecture all you want to, but I'm not going to tell you who they are. You'll find out one of these days. But for the moment, I'm not going to tell you." But he said, "I'm going to tell you what they do. And I'm going to tell you certain things about them." And we're just thinking our way through.

And then he says, "I want to tell you something else. I want to tell you something about Satan himself." And when you get into the twelfth chapter, you will find Satan appearing for the first time. Now we've seen the Satanic presence here in the person of this one who is Satan personified, but we

3 Chapters 4 & 5.

4 Revelation 8:1.

5 He is referring to what he has described in other classes as the "Parenthesis" of Revelation - Chapters 9 - 12 in which he states that the narrative is interrupted to provide further explanations of certain things found elsewhere in Revelation.

6 Revelation Chapter 11.

haven't seen Satan himself at all until now. And he says, "I'm going to tell you something about him, and I'm going to tell you why he hates the Jewish people, perhaps more than anybody else." And he says, "I want to do it in picture form. I want to picture the Jewish nation there as a woman, clothed in all the glory that God put around this Jewish nation. I want you to watch and the Jewish nation brings forth a son, the greatest of them all." And the Jewish nation had brought forth lots of sons, just magnificent sons. There is no nation on the earth, or ever has been or ever will be, out of whose loins has come such people as has come from the heart and loins of Israel. Nobody can compare with them, nobody, nobody.

But he says, "I'm going to show you the greatest of them all, and he's the one that this great red dragon would like to devour." And if you go back over your books, you will find that's exactly what he tried to do, too. And when he found that he couldn't get this one, this man-child, but God supernaturally protected him and then lifted him up to the glory, he was so mad about it all that he turned all the vinegar and vitriol of his anger against the woman herself. And that's the explanation of anti-Semitism. It's the anger of Satan against the people from whom Christ came, the one who's going to bruise the serpent's head. That's the secret of it.

It isn't just some human idiot like Hitler or somebody of that kind, who has got an anger in his heart. A thing we've been hearing about and heard about last night can be seen in realms everywhere, everywhere. What's the explanation of a man who is so positively insane that he turns his anger against a people like that, and does to these people what did happen to them during those World War II years? There isn't any explanation, except the thing we heard last night. That's the explanation of it, of course it is. Of course. And you can see it here. This thing is going on.

Then, when we get to Chapter 13, he says, "Now it's time for us to resume the narrative." And we'll just go on and talk a little bit. Now, we've seen Satan himself, as the great dragon, that old serpent, the Devil. And we've taken just a little glimpse at him in Chapter 12 for the first time. Now, he says, "I want you to see things that you perhaps couldn't see when you were in Chapter 1 or 2, but now you've been through twelve chapters of this, and you ought to be in a position where you can understand a few things now. Your mind ought to be attuned to this." And he says, "Now, I'm going to show you something that's going to happen and it's amazing."

Now, do you remember that a couple of class periods ago we put a little diagram on the board to show why that silence in heaven, and we said that John up there in heaven, with those in the heavenly realm were looking down to see what happens down here on earth. And they could not only see the things as recorded in Chapter 8, but they could see things that were happening and going to happen in Chapter 13, and it didn't make any difference because God doesn't operate on the tick of a clock. Whatever is with God is now. And what God says is not necessarily in chronological order, because God doesn't operate on that basis at all. Now, he says, "I want you to look and see why that thing happened, that silence in heaven, that shocked awed silence, as the angels watched to this final great climactic evidence of rebellion against God." Now, we've seen a little bit of it up until now. But we haven't seen anything like this.

Now, in order to see the greatness of the rebellion, you have to see the greatness of those who are involved in it. And we haven't seen anything like this up til now. Now we saw somebody in Chapter

12, we see somebody in 13 that we haven't seen before at all. We knew of his presence. We were aware of his activity. We knew, because we found him in the Old Testament. We found him in the New Testament as well. We find this same John warning us against him, saying that his spirit is in the world.

Oh, we knew about that. But you haven't seen him like this before. Now, here is the final blasphemy, the thing that caused silence in heaven, and the thing that really caused the pouring out of God's ultimate wrath against this old world of ours - the wrath of God that was poured out, because men have been blind to the thing that God did. All the way around they could see evidences of Him, and yet in the midst of a world, every single thing with the fingerprints of God upon it, and yet they have refused and closed their eyes and conjured up a thousand explanations as to where this came from and the meaning of that, apart all together from God. And God is sick and tired of it by the time you get to this place.

And you will find the wrath of God poured out upon man. And then you will find the wrath of the Lamb poured out upon men; for the ultimate wrath of God does not come because of what men do or do not with His creation, it's what men do with regard to His Son. Now, that's the ultimate of it. And you will find the wrath of God and the wrath of the Lamb all poured out upon a world when God's clock strikes and He says, "Time shall be no more."⁷ Now, that's what we're looking at and the more you look at this, the more you can see why God does what God does.

Now let's have a look and see just what happened here. This is the final picture – No, let me correct that: It is almost the final picture of this great world dictatorship. It's almost the final. Now there will be additional details added as you get on into Chapter 17 and again in Chapter 19, but for the moment, this is almost the complete picture that is before us.

If you want open any of these windows, it's alright with me. Are you alright? I don't want to suggest it, only for your sake, I'm perfectly alright. If you want to open one of those windows at the back there, where it wouldn't...I'm thinking only of your comfort, not mine. And if you want it closed again, well you just stop long enough there. This is our class, we can ...that'll help a little bit, I'm quite sure.

Now, let's look and see what this picture is that the Holy Spirit gives to us in Chapter 13. Now we saw one personality in Chapter 12. We see two of them in Chapter 13, and they are both brought before us under the figure of the beast. Now, I don't mean one beast, because you've got two. You have one beast that comes out of the sea, and the other that come out from the earth, or from the land, the earth. Very interesting explanations of those two things, but for the moment, let's look at it, if you please.

Here is this great world dictator now appearing. "And I stood upon the sand of the sea."⁸

Now let's stop long enough to remind ourselves that that phrase has two meanings to it - one, a literal meaning, and the other, perhaps the figurative, if you don't want to use the word spiritual meaning, but a figurative meaning. Let's remember that the sea, literally, that was all the way around this place where this was going on and where you could see this beast coming out of, the literal sea was the Mediterranean Sea. It wasn't any other sea. It's all going on in what we call the Bible World. Now,

⁷ Revelation 10:6.

⁸ Revelation 13:1

that's not important. I merely mention it to you because there is always, or nearly always, two interpretations of this thing - a literal one and then the meaning of the figurative one.

Now, in the imagery of the scripture what does the sea always represent, where you find it as a figure of speech? (Students answer) The nations, the restless nations of the world. Now, this is where this one is coming from. Let's watch it. He appears from amongst the nations of the world, the sea.

Now, let's stop long enough to ask this question, or to look at this side of it. If he comes out of the restless nations of the world, what will he be, Jew or Gentile? (Students answer) Gentile, exactly so. If he comes out of the restless nations of the world, he is a Gentile. Now that, too, isn't important except that it's an interesting thing, just to get the little facts together and piece them all together. It'll make your pattern a little more understandable. But it isn't one of the vital things. The Gentile world will produce a great world dictator, and coming out of the midst of the nations of the world, the Gentile nations of the world, will be a beast out of the sea. Now, when you get down to the end of the chapter and you'll find another beast appearing, he doesn't appear from out of the sea. He appears from out of the earth, the earth. And don't forget that whenever the land is spoken of it's always the place where the Jewish people dwell.

And you've got a picture here of one beast who comes from Gentile circumstances, and another one that comes from Jewish circumstances. Now, that's just a little bit of it. As we go along we can get our minds on something like this.

Let's look at this one who comes from out of the midst of the sea. We've seen him a good many times in the scripture. We have noticed him. Daniel talks about him. John talks about him. There are a hundred ways in which this one, this great world dictator has been described for us in the scriptures. Now, let's remember certain things about him. "I saw him rise out of the sea, having seven heads."⁹

Now let me ask you one question here, and you answer this, What does the number seven stand for in scripture? (Students answer) Completion, that's right. Completion. When you find the seven spirits of God, for instance, the seven attributes of the Holy Spirit of God, you are looking at the spirit in His fullness, His completion. It's always the number. So that this one has, as far as the nations of the world is concerned, he has complete 'something.' Now what does he have complete 'something?' What does he have in its completion, it's finality? He had seven what? (Students answer) Heads, that's right. If he had seven feet we would know something else about him. But it doesn't say that about him. It says he has seven heads, just a figure to show this one is possessed of all the knowledge that can possibly come from the peoples of the world. If you want any greater knowledge than that, you've got to go upstairs and find it up there. Now that's what it means. He's the one who's got everything.

Now, let's look again and see. He has, "Seven heads and ten horns." Now, in the imagery of the scripture, what does a horn represent? (Students answer) Power, that's right. He has a ten-fold power. Now, that is generally thought of to be a power over ten kingdoms - a power over ten kingdoms. And without getting into a realm where we do not belong, but I like to remind you that a great many of our thinking folks who attempt to interpret this book can see in that picture of the ten kingdoms, a revival of an old empire that had ten great kingdoms connected with it - the revival of the old Roman Empire.

9 Revelation 13:1

Now you will notice the way that I said that. I said there are many reliable interpreters of this book who can see that in it. Now, I hope I can see it too. But I confess to you that all I can tell you here is what men think, of whose shoes I'm not worthy to unloose. Now, let's remember, you will find that in a great many places. Now, if that is the case, then he will have a kingdom from which he will operate. The center of it will be a revived empire that was upon the earth and the kingdom became scattered. Now they will be brought together again.

Do you remember that we said that one writer whose interpretations have been very helpful as far as I'm concerned, used the phrase to describe what was going on now that will come to completion in later years or later times? He used the word 'the fillment' and then 'the fulfillment.' Now, here before our very eyes is the fillment of this thing that we're talking about - the coming together again of ten great nations or peoples that used to be under one domination back in Bible days, but because of circumstances were scattered, they are now coming together again.

Now, let me give you one thing that I hope you will remember and read. In the latest issue of the Moody Monthly, which is in our library, you will find a very interesting short editorial. It has to do with what is called now the European Common Market. Now, you will find this: that this is one of the little fragments of something on the stream of prophecy that has meaning to it. At the present time, only six nations are banding themselves together under one commercial flag. Now they haven't come together in anything else, but they're coming together commercially - The European Common Market. But remember that right around on the edge there are other nations who are just about ready to come on in, Great Britain for example, and others. Not in the original six, but here they are all around. They're all coming in. It wouldn't be at all surprising to find the United States is far more interested in it than just talking about it. And we're hearing something in these days. Now, I'm not attempting to interpret it. All I'm suggesting is it's one of the little things that you see floating on the surface that shows you which way the stream is running. Now, you read that. Now that's a thoughtful editorial that perhaps will be helpful in our evaluating of something that's going on all the way around us. You can't ignore it. This is something that's going on. This is big news in the midst of the world. It's news here.

Now, like everything else that is where men unite in this fashion, there will be faults in it. It isn't all going to work out just smoothly without any difficulty. Oh no, not at all. There's going to be value in it, but men will discover before they get very far along this line of united commercial effort and endeavor, they will discover that the one thing that's lacking in it is one controlling personality.

Now, you let me read you something. By the way, that's a good book. Let me hold it up here and we'll shut this window a little bit there. Don't want Mrs. Ross to get the pneumonia or anything like that. There's a good book. Let me hold it up to you. This is Dr. Dwight Pentecost's little book called, *Prophecy for Today*, and it's one of the best little things that I know anything about. He wrote the finest book on prophecy that has been produced in years. It is called, *Things to Come*, and it's a large book. As a matter of fact, he wrote it for his doctor's degree at Dallas Theological Seminary and it has become one of the standard works on prophecy. It's called, *Things to Come* by J. Dwight Pentecost. Young fellow, there. I don't know whether you can see that or not. There's a nice looking boy, I'll tell you. He

sure is.¹⁰

But God's using this fellow, He certainly is. Now, I want to read you a little bit of what he says, because this little book is really a digest of his larger books. Out of the material of his larger book, he has culled various things and given these at Bible conferences and so on. I want to read what he says to you about this idea of this world dictator and what's going to happen here. And what is said by someone who is in the midst of this business that we call the European Common Market. Now you listen to this. It won't take long here. But this is the Premier of Belgium. His name is Spock. Premier Spock in the newspaper LeSuer said, now this is what he said:

“The truth is that the method of international committees has failed. What we need is a person, someone of the highest order, of great experience, of great authority, of wide influence, of great energy. Let him come and let him come quickly. Either a civilian or a military man, no matter what his nationality, who will cut all the red tape, shove out of the way all the committees, wake up all the people, galvanize all governments into action. Let him come quickly. This man we need and for whom we wait, will take charge of the defense of the West. Once more, I say, it is not too late, but it is high time.”

Now, there's the Premier of one of these nations involved in this European Common Market. That's on page 92 of this little book. And it's just packed full of stuff like that.

Now, the echo of a voice crying for somebody to come, crying for somebody to come. And the Holy Spirit says, “I'm going to show you somebody who's coming and I'm going to tell you what kind of a person he is. I'm going to tell you how powerful he is. I'm going to tell you from whence he gets his power. I'm going to tell you about his origin. I'm going to tell you about the nations that he's going to gather around himself. And then from that center, rule the world.”

Now, let's go on there and see a little bit further of what is said about this. “Ten crowns and upon his head the name of blasphemy.”¹¹ Now remember that the name is always the word that is used for the condensed ultimate of anything. When you talk about the ‘name of God,’ in the ‘name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,’ what do you mean by that? You don't mean merely the sound of a word, not at all. But within that word there is concentrated all that can be piled in and packed into it. Now here is the name of blasphemy. This is the name that's written upon him, blasphemy. The ultimate in blasphemy. What will be the ultimate in blasphemy? And the more we can see it, the more you can understand that terrific judgments that are happening. This is an insult to Almighty God that cannot be overlooked. Now, look and see ‘the name of blasphemy.’ Now, we have already seen some indications of this one.

If you turn into the prophecy of Daniel, which is the companion book to the Old Testament book of

10 J. Dwight Pentecost (born April 24, 1915) is a Christian theologian best known for his book *Things to Come*. He currently is Distinguished Professor of Bible Exposition, Emeritus, at Dallas Theological Seminary, one of only two so honored. He holds a B.A. from Hampden-Sydney College and Th.M. and Th.D. degrees from Dallas Theological Seminary. During his academic career he has taught biblical subjects for nearly half a century (Philadelphia College of Bible, 1948-55; Dallas Theological Seminary, 1955-present). His nearly twenty books are written mostly for the general Christian reader.

11 Revelation 13:1

Revelation, you will find this one is described there - the great world dictator. He is described in very similar words to these. That is, Daniel receives a vision of some great one that's arising from out of the midst of the nations, and he sees him as a beast. But he sees him in four aspects. Four heads, if you like. It only means four aspects.

Notice what it says, "And the beast which I saw was like a leopard and his feet were the feet of a bear. And his mouth was as the mouth of a lion and the dragon gave him his power and his seat and great authority."¹²

Now here's the picture of this one coming. He has all the characteristics you will notice of the four great world empires that Daniel saw in his vision - all the characteristics of them; the swiftness of Greece, the leopard; the crushing might of Medo-Persia; the bear, the authority; the mouth of the lion, the Roman. And you can find in this one, in this figurative language that he gathers in to himself the characteristics of the four great world empires, not just the revival of one of them necessarily, but he gathers in to himself the characteristics of all of them.

Now, remember if you please, that this one is under authority in spite of the fact that he looks as if he has shed authority of every kind from everybody. He is still under authority. Now remember, from whence his authority comes. Go back to Chapter 12 and you will find the sinister figure of that old serpent, the Devil, the great red dragon. You will find him there standing back in the shadows. He doesn't come out personally. This is the personal manifestation of him.

Now, let's look and see what he gives to this one. He gave him his power. Now watch it again, and his throne, watch it, and great authority. Now, here is somebody who has sold out to Satan completely. And because of it, Satan gives him those things which somebody else had rejected. Do you remember the time when Satan offered this very thing to somebody? And somebody said to him, "You get thee behind me."

Now, he's got somebody else, and this one is going to reach out, and is reaching out, his hands and his head and his heart and his personality and Satan's got everything there is about him and into these hands he gives the thing that was refused before.

Now, you watch and see what happens - great authority.

"And I saw one of his heads as it was wounded to death and his deadly wound was healed and all the world wondered after the beast."¹³

Now here again, we are getting into realms where all you can do is to surmise. Now, I want you to avoid certain things in this chapter. For instance, one of the things that I want you to avoid is asking me what 666 means. Dr. Pentecost says, "I don't know what that means. All I know is that there's been six hundred and sixty-six explanations of it." Now, all we can do is to try to think our way into this thing.

Now, let's ask this question, If anti-Christ is to be a real imitation of God's Christ, then he must not only

¹² Revelation 13:2

¹³ Revelation 13:3

be imitation of him in his power, but if he is going to be the world's Messiah and men are going to believe this animated lie rather than God's truth, there will have to be certain things about him. What was the important thing about God's Christ? What? (Students answer) His life, his death. Alright, go on. (Students answer) His resurrection. His resurrection. If Satan produces a Christ, where those things are absent, then he is obviously a fake.

Now, without getting into a realm where we don't belong, and getting off balance on anything like that, it would seem as if, in producing his anti-Christ, in some way he caused him to be put to death and then in his time raised him from the dead. Now, let me give you a little bit of background about this, and I can't give you necessarily just who it is that says it, because there are scores of men who say this very same thing - that anti-Christ will not necessarily suddenly appear when the tribulation comes. He may be in the world today, but if he is, he is keeping his personality carefully hidden and he is operating as an entirely different person to what he will operate as when the tribulation comes. It may be that there is somebody, somebody who now looks like a great friendly, intellectual giant whose presence can be the answer to questions, such as the question that Premier Spock of Belgium raises here. We want somebody. Now, he isn't thinking about a nasty world dictator. He's thinking about a great acceptable person, who is a giant in himself. That's what he's thinking about.

And it may be that right in the world at this very moment there is somebody, maybe hidden, maybe undercover, but who is gradually arising, not as an offensive one. If he came with a sword in his hand, he wouldn't be acceptable at all. But somebody whose intellect is so great, whose power and personality is so tremendous, that he can solve problems. And it is quite possible that he may be in the world right now. And if that be the case, when the church is raptured and the tribulation is ushered in, then this one who has been hidden in his personality will then rise up and take command in the way that we see it in the scripture. Now, it may be that that is so.

Now, let me remind you of something else. This one who is, and probably almost certainly will be, in the world before he is ultimately manifested at the beginning of the tribulation in his true character, that this one who is in the world will some time or other at the conclusion of his hidden ministry in which he looks like a great friend, that that one will be assassinated.

Now, I read yesterday about a young lady who put a wreath of flowers on the grave of a very great man. I question if any man in recent years - any man I'm talking about, I'm not talking about him in his relationship to God, I know nothing about that - has ever been more remarkable than this man. But somebody assassinated him. Now, do you know who I'm talking about? (Student answers) I'm talking about Ghandi, that's right. Only the day before yesterday, Mrs. Kennedy laid a wreath of white roses on the tomb of this man.¹⁴ He was a great man.

And don't forget that the story of this old world of ours is the story of great men whose lives have been laid down. Now, in some way, Satan's going to imitate that. And this one, assassinated, and then the rapture of the church takes place, and the tribulation is ushered in and now by this power of his that is so tremendous that there is nothing to equal it except the power that flows from the throne of God itself, and by permission of God, this one is raised from the dead, so that the world stands aghast. Here he is, this is the one. This is the great dictator. This is the Messiah, which will be the cry of a lost

¹⁴ Jacqueline Kennedy visited India during mid-March, 1962.

world when the tribulation is ushered in.

Now, let's go on one step further from that. There are spiritual or, I don't know just the word to use, there are other interpretations of that. For instance, there are those who feel that this picture of the beast is the picture of a great empire, not the picture of a man. And they say, this is the picture of the great world empire of Rome. And they say, watch the words regarding it, it died and now it has been raised again. Because one of the things that's happening here that hasn't happened yet, is this revival of an empire that faded out of the picture but is now revived again. And they say, that's the meaning of it. Now, so that we may be aware of it, I merely mention it, that's all. I merely mention it. Whether there is any truth in that or not, I do not know. But the fact of the matter is, there was an empire that was tremendous and then it died. And now, with this one in the center of it is now being revived.

Now, let's go on. You've got a lot of other things about that, of course. You've got just lots of other things that can be brought into that. For instance, there are lots of folks who think that this picture of anti-Christ is Judas revived, resurrected from the dead and in whose heart Satan now controls. Remember, two things were said about Judas that are said about anti-Christ. The Son of Perdition is one of them.¹⁵ The same phrase is used of both. Now I merely mention that because I think one of the things we ought to avoid is getting off on tangents of that sort and majoring on minors. I don't think we ought to do that.

But nevertheless, we ought to be intelligent about what folks think, whose brain power is infinitely greater than all of us in this room rolled together. We ought to be aware of what they think. And when you get men like Dr. Dehan and lots of others who think that, you can't all together ignore it, can you?¹⁶ You can look at it and think about it and become what we are now, aware of the fact that there are great men who can see in this one a revived, resurrected Son of Perdition, this one.

Now, I merely mention it and that's all, that's all. Frankly, I don't know. I don't know, and I don't care. I don't think it matters very much. The point about it is, here is somebody who is going to be Satan personified, and that's the thing we fasten on all the way through.

Alright, thank you.

(audio ends)

¹⁵ The phrase son of perdition is used in the New Testament to refer to Judas Iscariot. In John 17:12, Jesus says that of all his disciples, none has been lost except the "son of perdition". The New International Version translates the phrase as "the one doomed to destruction."

¹⁶ I am unsure about this "Dr. Dehan" to whom Sidney Cox refers to here.