

Before we get started, I want to let you know that in conjunction with this study, I have published a book entitled “**Liberating the book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message.**” This book gives a great introduction to the **Code**, and conveys the entire book of **Revelation** utilizing the actual verb tenses, voices, moods, case, and so on.

Liberating the book of Revelation is intended to help us all know what the Spirit said and how He said it. This book is focused not so much on interpreting the book of **Revelation**, that is what this podcast is for, but it is about accurately representing the book of **Revelation** in the manner in which the Spirit originally spoke it to John.

In addition, I received the help of an amazing artist, Howard David Johnson who allowed me to use his illustrations on the book of **Revelation**. I encourage you to go to amazon.com and you can find the book either under the title “**Liberating the book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message**” or by my name as the author: **Stephen Villanueva**. It is available in hardback, paperback, and e-book format. I am also currently working on the audible version. So more to come.

EP112 Revelation 13 verses 14-15 P1

In our last podcast we studied the importance of the scars that remain and how it helps complete the Messianic image which the Beast portrays to both the seen and unseen realms. As a result, even humanity joins the demonic in worship of the Beast.

We also discussed the supernatural great signs, like fire from heaven, that even now are being performed by the False Prophet, the second beast. These great signs are being performed in the midst, or in the heart of Christianity, in the presence of the Beast.

So, let’s continue with the activities of the False Prophet, the second beast who causes those who are now dwelling on the earth to make an image to the Beast.

The Image Speaks

Revelation 13:14-15

And he **now** deceives those who are **now** dwelling on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the sight of the beast, **now** telling those who are **now** dwelling on the earth to make an image to the beast who **now has the wound** of the sword and lived.

And it was caused to be given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might also {or both} speak and may cause as many as may not worship the image of the beast that they may be caused to be killed.

Wow, talk about deception. The second beast is given the capability of giving breath to this Image, such that like the second beast, it too may speak. Some translations will say that the second beast gives

“life” to the Image. However, the Greek has three words associated with “life.” The first and primary word is “zoe” (from where we derive zoology). A second word is “*psuche*” which is used to describe what we would call the heart or the soul (it is from where we derive our word psychology). The third is “bios” which depicts more a manner of life. We have many words that utilize “bios” such as biological, bioactive, bioscience, etc.

But the word used in this passage is “*pneuma*” which is akin to a breath, like the kiss of the wind. It is the word that is translated as spirit, as in the Holy Spirit who is the breath of life. This second beast has been given the ability to give breath to this Image, such that it speaks (**NOT** life). This distinction made by the Spirit and twisted by men in many translations is no small distinction, it is extremely relevant in terms of our understanding of this image.

It is comforting to know that this second beast does not have the capability in himself to cause this amazing miracle. This was **given** to him as “*given*” is rendered in the *passive* voice). It only seems like the second beast possesses the power of the Almighty with all his great signs, but he does not. He is just a deceitful poser, just like the dragon and the Beast, who received all their glory, power, authority, and so on from **Yahweh Sabaoth**, their Master and Ruler.

**NOTHING ORIGINATES FROM THIS TRIFECTA OF EVIL.
THEY SIMPLY PASS ON WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY YAHWEH.**

Anyone who has enjoyed the various **End Times fictions** has imagined what this Image will be like, and how it will deceive the world. Will it be a form of Artificial Intelligence, a gigantic statute, or something else involving tech? It is critical to note that there is nothing in this verse that is rendered in the **future** tense—**NOTHING!** Hence, the Spirit is not addressing what will be in the future; rather, He is addressing what is, what has been, and therefore, what will continue to be. The point is that this image, and its ability to speak, is not an event reserved for the **End Times**.

This image is given breath and it speaks just like the second beast. We understood from **13:11** that the second beast speaks like a dragon—fiery words of conflict and contempt. Therefore, like the second beast, this image starts fires of destruction with just its words. These words stem from distortions of the Word of God and tout such glories as love, tolerance, acceptance of all, equality, fairness, and justice, while at the same time demanding judgment, condemnation, and punishment of those who do not follow the ways of the Beast.

Fearing no human retribution, its words burn and ignite a great fire, speaking blasphemies against God and against the **Called, Chosen, and Faithful** of God, as it speaks words that destroy—words that represent the true base nature of the Beast—destruction. Ultimately, it will declare that the one true Messiah has come and therefore must be worshipped. And those that refuse must be destroyed.

Might and May

In terms of the **Code**, it is interesting that the Spirit used a lot of “non-discrete” terms. Four times this passage frames activity in the *subjunctive* mood and not the *indicative*. The *subjunctive* represents something as being contingent, probable, or possibly eventual. The subjunctive mood is represented by

words such as “*might*,” “*may*,” and “*should*.” In other words, the activity it describes is not guaranteed to occur, it is just possible, highly likely even.

*“And it was caused to be given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast **might** also {or both} speak and **may** cause as many as **may** not worship the image of the beast they **may** be caused to be killed.”*

It sounds like the Spirit is hemming and hawing instead of just telling it as it will be. Why the posturing? Why not phrase it as “*so that the image of the beast **will** also {or both} speak and **will** cause as many as **will** not worship the image of the beast they **will** be caused to be killed*”?

We must never forget that **the Spirit is always intentional and very precise in how He chose to phrase things**, and so it is up to us to seek understanding of why He said things as He did.

Examining much of the **End Times fiction** portrayed in books, movies, and even in far too many sermons, everything is often communicated in absolutes. But the Spirit is indicating that not everything is so black and white.

They May Not Hear

*“... so that the image of the beast **might** also {or both} speak ...”* This passage seems to indicate that the image might speak to some but not to others, even though they have the same level of exposure to the image. The image speaking, or perhaps one’s ability to hear the image speak, is not a uniform phenomenon as we might otherwise expect. Those to whom the image speaks, or better yet, those who have ears to hear the image speak, is likely tied to a person’s own spiritual sensitivity.

It is much like the things of the Spirit. Many may hear the words, understand the meaning of the words, know the words in the Greek or Hebrew, but still have no spiritual understanding of what the Spirit is communicating. They simply are not now having ears to hear. In that vein, not everyone experiences the image speaking, such that they come to believe the words and worship the Beast.

Perhaps it is also akin to the way Jesus speaks, but as He said, only His true sheep hear His voice and follow. Similarly, Jesus said that the works He does in His Father’s name **speak**, or testify, of Him, but that many would not “believe” (a synonym for those who may not “hear”) because they were not of His sheep.¹

MANY HEAR HIS WORDS, BUT FEW HEAR AND RECOGNIZE HIS VOICE SUCH THAT THEY FOLLOW.

This is the dynamic that occurs with the image. Many will be exposed to its words, but there will be those who refuse to recognize his voice, those that choose to not follow the Beast.

They May Not Worship

*“... and **may** cause as many as **may** not worship the image of the beast ...”* As with hearing the image speak, there are people on this earth who **may** not worship the Beast.

Portraying himself as the Messiah, the Beast desires everyone to bow to him, but we know that the

¹ See **John 10:16, 22-27**

Called and Chosen and Faithful do not listen to the second beast, and they do not listen to the image of the Beast, and they will not bow down before the Beast. In contrast, they are those who follow the Lamb wherever He goes, for they hear His voice.²

We also have learned that the **Elect** and the **Righteous**, as well as people from certain territories on the east side of the Jordan river, refuse to worship the Beast. And somehow, they survive until the Second Coming of Jesus.³ Simply said, not everyone will worship the Beast, hence, the Spirit's use of the *subjunctive*.

They May Not Die

"... and **may** cause as many as **may** not worship the image of the beast they **may** be caused to be killed." Much like King Nebuchadnezzar who threatened to kill anyone who would not bow to the statue of gold which he made to honor himself, so too the second beast desires to kill everyone who does not bow down to the Beast or to the image of the Beast.⁴ Thankfully what he wants and what he gets are two different things.

The second beast promotes the tyrannical, destructive, and homicidal nature of the Beast and attempts to enforce submission to the Beast. The image is a tool used in his enforcement strategy. Still, he will not be able to kill everyone who does not worship the Beast. The "**may**" – this glorious *subjunctive*, which is ordained by God, is in the way.

Therefore, when it comes to the image speaking, to those who worship the Beast, and to those who get killed for their rebellion to the Beast, it is all "**might**" or a "**may**" and not "will." By way of example, we learned that in the war which the Beast will wage against the two witnesses, there will be those who are alive and remain at the time of the rapture, even though most will be killed and miraculously resurrected to life immediately before the rapture.⁵

Is the Image the Abomination of Desolation?

As with Nebuchadnezzar, there is a long sordid history of tyrannical madmen attempting to get the people of God to bow to them and to snub **Yahweh**. In that light, this representation of the Beast that aids in the second beasts' deceptive works brings up the idea of the famed *Abomination of Desolation* that has been caused to be standing in the holy place—where it ought not to be.

Could this image be "**the**" *Abomination of Desolation*? After all, the second beast even gives this image breath such that it speaks like the second beast, which means it speaks words of conflict, contempt, and division ultimately aimed at disparaging **Yahweh** and His bondservants.

However, before we answer the question, let's investigate the past and the impact which some images, or icons had on humanity, and how they served as a type of the *Abomination of Desolation*. Perhaps we can gain some insight on this image that the second beast causes to speak.

² **Revelation 14:4**

³ See **Daniel 11:41; Joel 2:32; Obadiah 17**

⁴ See **Daniel 3**

⁵ **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

Statue of Gold & Nebuchadnezzar

First, there was the golden statue of ancient Babylon made in the image of King Nebuchadnezzar. According to the **Codex**, the statute incorporated the famed number of the Beast: **666**. It was sixty-six cubits high and six cubits wide. The whole Babylonian religious and political scene had a very apocalyptic feel. *“To you the command is given, O peoples, nations, and men of every language, that at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up. But whoever does not fall down, and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire.”*⁶

This event provides a clear parallel to the image of the Beast which demands for the people of the world to worship the Beast, and the threat of death for anyone who refuses.

Zeus & Antiochus IV

Second, the statue which gave us the “typology” for “**the**” *Abomination of Desolation* provides similar parallels to this image of the Beast. In the book of **Daniel**, a type or foreshadow of the antichrist is revealed. The related prophecies address a Greek general which ruled over the territory of ancient Assyria would arise and commit horrendous acts, including setting up an idol which served as a type of “**the**” *Abomination of Desolation* mentioned by Jesus.⁷

Antiochus IV, a king of the Seleucid Empire (from the area of modern-day Syria) ruled from 175-164 BC. Antiochus believed that the Jews had conspired with Egypt to hinder his military campaign against the Egyptians, a campaign which ultimately failed. Leaving Egypt, he was furious and so he marched up to Jerusalem and slaughtered close to 40,000 Jews and made slaves of another 40,000. He desecrated and looted the temple and demanded compulsory Hellenization (the Greek indoctrination) of all Jews.

He rededicated the temple of **Yahweh** to **Zeus** and ordered the worship of Zeus as supreme God. He even built a Greek altar over the old one. His armies set up an image of Zeus in the holy place, in the Sanctuary, which clearly defiled the place where God ministered to the priests. This statue of Zeus is what is called the “*Abomination of Desolation*” or “*Desecration.*” He even offered swine’s blood on the altar as he replaced the usual sacrifices with that of pigs. He forbade the keeping of the Sabbath and the Jewish festivals, and he made circumcision a capital crime.

He was an unbelievably bad man. He even assumed divine epithets such as “manifest god” and “bringer of victory.” This was a level of blasphemy which no other Hellenist king before him had done. Without doubt, Antiochus was possessed, and he was in effect a mini antichrist who gives us a type or a picture of what the Beast will do in and through the man we call the Antichrist.

By the way, Zeus was the chief deity of pagan Hellenists of Greece and Macedonia. The Romans referred to their equivalent of Zeus as **Jupiter**. Both Zeus and Jupiter were thought to be the Almighty God of the sky and thunder, and king of all the gods; however, unlike Zeus, Jupiter had the power to determine the course of human history, or fate. Jupiter was able to shape the course of all events on earth, even bringing forth miracles.

⁶ **Daniel 3:4-6**

⁷ **Daniel 11; Matthew 24:15**

Zeus/Jupiter & Simon

Third, it is interesting that a similar statute to **Zeus** was connected to the story of Simon the Magician, whom we read about in the book of **Acts**.⁸ Simon was practicing magic in Samaria and astonishing the people with his magic. In the Dictionary of Christian Biography, Literature, Sects, and Doctrines, it is said that Simon went to Rome around 45 AD and so impressed Caesar with his magic that he was honored as a god, and a statute of him was set up near the river Tiber with an inscription reading: “Holy God Simon.” It is also noted that some believed that Simon was the incarnation of the Greek God **Zeus**, while Simon’s followers called him **Jupiter**.

This should not be surprising, as the Samaritans, in a similar fashion, called Simon: “The power of God that is called the Great.”⁹ They personified the power of God in this man, and he took upon himself this epithet of deity—that of a false Messiah. Simon is the man who asked to purchase from Peter the power of the Holy Spirit. Peter not only rebuked Simon, but said was filled with evil bitterness and jealousy.

This story advances the *Abomination of Desolation* narrative as people worshipped men as Gods or as living representatives of the Gods.

Jupiter & Peter

Fourth, in the great Pantheon at Rome there was a statute of the image of **Jupiter**. The Pantheon was converted into a church in 125 AD and dedicated to the Virgin Mary (of course). The statutes of all the gods in the Pantheon are now found in the Vatican Museum, except for the great statute of Jupiter, which has been modified into the form of **St. Peter**, re-titled, and seated on a throne in St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. Though modified, this statue continues to have the Sun Disk over its head, which was a symbol of the Sun God, Jupiter. It was left in place to serve as Peter’s halo.



Thousands of people kiss the foot of Jupiter while thinking it is the statue of Peter. It is sad, but those paying homage have nearly worn away the toes of the statute through their idolatrous worship. How intense and disturbing is that? By the way, this is believed to be the oldest “Christian” statue. The irony is beyond imagination.

Each of these examples establish for us a collective narrative of “**the**” *Abomination of Desolation* which Jesus spoke about. Those past examples, however, are types, and they point us toward what Jesus said we might experience in one-way-shape-or-form from this image, this icon of the Beast that will be given breath and will speak like the second beast, who speaks like a dragon. Therefore, we must ask, is this image “**the**” *Abomination of Desolation*?

The Abomination of Desolation is Here

We know with all certainty that Daniel’s prophecy did not apply to any of those past historical events because Jesus addressed this issue of “**the**” *Abomination of Desolation* and He even ties “**the**” *Abomination of Desolation* to the events associated with the **Great Tribulation**, which as we have learned

⁸ *Acts 8*

⁹ *Acts 8:10*

occurs in the second 3.5-year period of the Tribulation. We are going to read the bulk of the passage for context, but we will focus on the statements about “**the**” *Abomination of Desolation*.

Matthew 24:15-23

*Therefore, when you **may see** the Abomination of Desolation having been caused to be spoken of by the prophet Daniel, having been **standing in the holy place** (he who is **now** reading is commanded to **now** understand), then those who are in Judea are commanded to **now** flee to the mountains.”*

Whoever is on the housetop is commanded to not go down to get the things out that are in his house. Whoever is in the field is commanded to not turn back to get his cloak. But woe to those who are **now** being pregnant and to those who are **now** nursing babies in those days!

You are commanded to now choose to pray that your flight will not choose to be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. **For in the future there will choose to be great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever may choose to be.** Unless those days had been caused to be cut short, no life would have been caused to be saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will in the **future** be caused to be cut short. Then if anyone may say to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' may you not believe him.

The **Code** in this passage is crazy and quite disturbing, but it is spot on in alignment with what we studied about the “**might**” and the “**may**” – God’s glorious and merciful limitations expressed in the *subjunctive*. We will find that just like there is a spiritual dynamic to one’s ability to hear the image speak, so too is there a spiritual dynamic to one’s ability to see “**the**” *Abomination of Desolation*.

We are not going to examine this whole passage, as we read it for context; rather, we will stick with the first sentence relating to “**the**” *Abomination of Desolation*. But a careful reading of that full text will disclose things that are, things that have been, and things that will be—things that are tied to the Great Tribulation.

Let’s begin. “*Therefore, when you **may see** the Abomination of Desolation having been caused to be spoken of by the prophet Daniel...*” Once again, we are confronted with a “**may**”—as “*see*” is rendered in the *subjunctive* mood. The Spirit is communicating in the same motif as with the image speaking. In other words, just like not everyone will have the spiritual ears to hear what the image is speaking, not everyone will have the spiritual eyes to see “**the**” *Abomination of Desolation*.

The ability to hear and see things that derive from the spiritual realms requires spiritual discernment, a trait that is **NOT** shared by all. As we have learned, even all “believers” do not now have ears to hear what the Spirit now says to the churches.

This is a mind-blowing reality given what Jesus says next. “*Therefore, when you **may see** the Abomination of Desolation ... having been **standing in the holy place** (he who is **now** reading is commanded to **now** understand) ...” In the parallel passage in the Gospel of Mark, the Spirit added, “*standing where it **now** ought to not be...*”¹⁰ What? This is happening now? How is that possible?*

¹⁰ Mark 13:14

It is Standing!

According to the **Code**, “*standing*” is rendered in the *perfect active participle*. In other words, the Spirit is clearly communicating, and He commands us who are **now** reading to **now** understand that “**the**” *Abomination of Desolation* is **NOT** a future event. With the use of the *perfect* tense and the *participle*, the image, this icon, has already been standing and it continues to be standing where it now ought to not be—in the **holy place**.

In the **Codex**, the “*holy place*” is used as a synonym for the “*naos*”— the Sanctuary of God (both figuratively and literally).¹¹ And as we learned in **Revelation 11**, the Sanctuary is a specific reference to the community of, or the gathering place of, the **Chosen**—the priests of God.

Do you have eyes to see? Do you have ears to hear? Are you ready to flee?

Both Jesus and the Spirit are telling us that **now**, and every moment of now, at least since Jesus lived, “**the**” *Abomination of Desolation* has been standing amidst the **Chosen** people of God. In much the same way that Judas, the betrayer who was possessed by Satan, stood amid the disciples and they did not know it, so too has “**the**” *Abomination of Desolation* been standing, or positioned, in the midst of the Chosen of God, and it is safe to say that most have not known it.

How does that make any sense? What are we missing? Why have we not seen it? Why have we not even heard about this from all our great teachers and preachers?

The answer to these questions is not a mystery; rather the answer is clear, plain, and obvious and it is likely that by now many of you have already jumped to the answer. Having eyes that we **may** see the answer (not just to know the answer but to comprehend the answer) comes with a level of spiritual discernment that requires us to be **willing** to let the Spirit tear off from our eyes the religious scales that keep us bound to the physical, bound to deception, listening to the words of the image, all the while unable to see the spiritual reality “*standing*” right in front of our faces.

If we want to **see**, we **MUST** be **willing** to let the Spirit do all that is necessary to transform in our heart, mind, and soul, the earnest but completely wrong notions we have held to about the church, about Christianity, and about the community of the “people of God,” and let the truth we learned in **Revelation 11:1-2** about the measurement of the Sanctuary sink deep into our being.

The fact that there is a measurement and a segregation of those who are now found to be worshipping in the Sanctuary from all others, including the priests who are busy serving in the Temple, should have rocked your view of Christianity, at least the version of Christianity that many of us have come to know. But hearing truth and knowing or seeing truth are two different things, a reality which is brought to light by the “**may**” and the “**might**.”

It is Positioned

By the way, the Greek word that is translated “*standing*” can be literal as in an image is literally standing in the holy place (much like the statue of Zeus/St. Peter), or it can be understood as a picture communicating a spiritual position, much like when we are told to *stand* firm in our heart and to stand

¹¹Hebrews 9, 10:19, 13:11

firm in our faith against the schemes of the devil.¹² Clearly, this is not to be understood as speaking of our physically standing upright, versus laying or sitting down, but it speaks of a spiritual position.

It should be evident that Jesus did not say that a physical image has literally been standing in the holy place, after all the “*holy place*” is a spiritual picture of a spiritual reality. The “*holy place*” or the “*naos*” is a picture of those in the household of God who now have the Spirit of God abiding in the being (in the **New Creation**).

But make no mistake, “**the**” *Abomination of Desolation* has been **positioned** in the unseen realm in the holy place of the Chosen people of God. It is a spiritual reality that has a very real impact on our physical existence in the community of believers. And that is why the Spirit said, “... (*he who is **now** reading is commanded to **now** understand*) ...”

To identify this image, one must have eyes to see. Sight is a precondition to our obeying Jesus command, “*then those who are in Judea* (the territory known as the community of believers) *are commanded to **now** flee to the mountains*” (the mountains being a place of security and safety found in a system of belief).

So, let’s get to the elephant in the room. How is it possible that “**the**” *Abomination of Desolation* has been standing, or better yet, **positioned**, amid the Chosen people of God?

Let’s stop here with this question, and we will pick up in our next podcast with more on this image which the second beast, the False Prophet, gives breath.

I am glad you “tuned in” and have been “ready to listen.”

¹² See **1 Corinthians 7:37; Ephesians 6:10-17**