

“Asteroids: Coming to Cities Near You” ***(Behind the Scenes of Revelation 13 #3)***

1. Revelation 13 actually describes the world of the future.
 - That is certainly not the case today
 - The world we live in today is a secular world; sometimes a very godless one.
2. However, the Bible predicts that all that will change. It's called a "Paradigm Shift"
 - A "paradigm" is how things are in today's society: secular, logic, science, godless
 - But paradigms can change; called a "paradigm shift".
3. Some paradigm shifts take long periods of time; sometimes they change quickly
 - Revelation 13 describes a paradigm shift taking place, but this shift will be a sudden change
4. What kind of change will happen to this world in the future?
 - Revelation 13:1-4 – our world will become religious. They will follow the beast power and especially worship it
 - Revelation 13:11-17 – our world will come under the control of this religious authority, "the Beast". This lamb-like beast will control the world's economic institutions.
 - The pressure will be on: anyone who refuses to worship in the politically correct way will face some consequences. They won't be able to buy or sell. They will even face a death decree.
5. Revelation 13 is about a crisis and how the world reacts to that crisis.
 - The beast power seizes power and enforces their politics to bring things under control their way
 - Human rights are side-stepped. The beast power even uses manipulation or coercion to get things under control.
6. Revelation 13 says next to nothing about the crisis that has caused this sudden paradigm shift, but Jesus, in Luke 21:25, 26 and Luke 17:28-30, uncovers the scenes behind Revelation 13.
7. Now is the time to trust in Jesus as our Savior and Lord! Now is the time to know His Word and what will happen to our world in the future. Now is the time to take sides, not with the beast but with God.
8. **Who will be able to stand against the Beast?** Answer: Only those who obey God's Law for **the right reason**. **They will understand and put into practice the two functions of God's Law:**
 - #1 FIRST THE LAW AND THEN THE GOSPEL** – First, they will see inability to meet the demands of God's Law. In other words, they will realize they do not have righteousness the Law of God demands, but instead they choose to trust in the perfect and righteous acts of Jesus Christ (the Gospel of Christ's Saving Righteousness) for their acceptance with God. They are "accepted in the Beloved." (Eph. 1:6)
 - #2 FIRST THE GOSPEL AND THEN THE LAW** - Once they acknowledge that their righteousness cannot meet the Law's demands, but Christ's Righteousness does, then the function of God's law **REVERSES** as they will seek to live in obedience to God's Law-(never to be saved but because they are already saved in Christ). Now they will **first** keep on trusting in (focusing on) the Gospel of Christ their Righteousness by Faith (what He did for them and who they are in Christ). **Then** they will grow (obedient to God's Law as their rule and guide for life) as they focus on the Gospel **first**. **That is the right order!** **First**, behold the Gospel, and **then** the Holy Spirit will change us and place the principles of God's Law in our heart. (Read 11Cor. 3:18; Heb. 8:10).
 - These principles (first the Gospel and then the Law) for Christian living are taught in the Bible: In John 8:11 Jesus told the woman taken in adultery to "go, and sin no more." His commanding her to live a life of holiness and purity was first grasped in the promise of Christ, "Neither do I condemn thee...."; Read also Col. 3:1-10; 11Cor. 7:1; Titus 3:2-7; Ex. 20:2-17.
 - REMEMBER:** The Gospel is the mainspring of true Christian obedience.
 - Those that put into practice the two functions of God's law will be able to stand against the Beast.**

