

## Introduction to the Book of Revelation - Part 10

9.30.20

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**We will spend this evening and 4 more weeks on this series, wrapping up at the end of October and moving back to mens and women groups or the RCU groups.**

Chapter 13 is dramatic. It begins with a beast rising out of the sea followed by a 2nd beast rising out of the earth — they work in tandem to defy God, persecute anyone or anything representing God and then impose a mark and a number upon humans that controls all commerce.

### Pt 10 — The Beast (rising from sea and earth)

#### 1. THE BEAST RISING FROM THE SEA

##### **Revelation 13:13**

*13 The dragon[a] stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.*

##### **1.1 Who is the beast?**

Back in 1 John, John's earlier book, written prior to Revelation, he said...

##### **1 Jn 2:18**

*Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.*

The Antichrist is coming

##### **2 Thes 2:1-4**

*Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, 2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. 3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness[a] is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.*

The AC is a spirit in the world yesterday, and today that will eventually culminate in a person during the tribulation period. For this evil one to arise, the great restrainer or restraining force, the must step aside. There is only one power that can hold back evil and that is the great spirit, the Holy Spirit, at work. Once he steps aside and the church is raptured, the Antichrist can and will reveal himself. The HS will not step out of the world completely, but rather out of way because He is everywhere.

### **The word Antichrist means “in place of” or “opposed to”**

Satan is a spiritual being having no physical body and must use a physical body to do his work. That is why a human being will be the beast rising out of the sea—a man, a physical being influenced and ultimately possessed by Satan

As a point of reference, think of Judas; he was a physical being filled with Satan and used to betray Jesus.

### **1.2 What does the sea represent?**

- A. If the meaning is geographic then it is likely the Mediterranean Sea. Remember, at the time of this writing, John was on the isle of Patmos which is in the Mediterranean Sea.
- B. Med means middle, as in the middle of the earth. All the great empires of the world arose from this area including the most dominant, the Roman Empire.
- C. C. The sea is associated with masses of people or nations in the Bible that come from a kingdom.

### **1.3 What are the 10 horns (crowns) and 7 heads?**

Horns represent political power in the bible and, in this case, the 10 horns are kings or kingdoms, each wearing a crown.

- A. Notice there are only 7 heads for the 10 crowns.
- B. May mean that 10 kings come from 7 kingdoms (the kingdoms may have more than one ruler — for example Israel is in a co-prime ministership right now).

This is where things get complex.

**Revelation 13 is meant to be read in conjunction with Daniel 2 and 7. Studying the 2 passages side by side provides puzzle-like information.**

In chapters 2 and 7, Daniel sees two visions, at different times, but both representing the same thing.

(Notice from where the four beasts arise)

### ***Daniel 7:1-8***

*In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.*

2 Daniel said: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. 3 Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

4 "The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a human being, and the mind of a human was given to it.

5 "And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!'

6 "After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.

7 "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

8 "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

Daniel is troubled by what he sees and asks what does this mean?

V.7 says, the 4 beasts are 4 great kingdoms that will rise from the earth.

600 years earlier Daniel wrote about 4 major world empires, successive empires in world history.

### **Four Major World Empires**

1. **Babylon:** like a lion with eagle's wings
2. **Media-Persia:** like a bear
3. **Greece:** leopard with 4 wings
4. **Rome:** combination of all 3

### **Rev 13:2**

2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

### **1.4 How does the beast rise to power?**

He receives power from the dragon who is waiting on the shore for the beast. The dragon is Satan:

- A. who gives his power to the beast
- B. who gives his throne
- C. has great authority

Antichrist will lead a revised Roman empire

- terrifying and frightening and very powerful
- large iron teeth, crushing and devouring
- different than the other beasts

10 horns and a little horn that came up among them

- horn starts small
- uproots 3 of the 10 horns
- eyes of a human and arrogant mouth, this is real person

The Antichrist will rule and have 7 sub kings under his command. The 10 become 7 when the AC uproots them.

### **Rev 13:3-4**

*3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast. 4 People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?"*

Satan is counterfeit and has always craved what only belongs to God: worship. Satan offered the kingdoms of this world to Christ in exchange for worship. Christ refused. The Antichrist will accept the offer Jesus rejected and is given the kingdoms of the world.

**Part of the rise of this small horn to greatness includes a miracle of sorts. He recovers from a fatal wound.** The implication is that he is hurt on a national stage and recovers. **Imagine the JFK assassination** scenario, where he is fatally shot in the head, yet supernaturally recovers. The recovery is linked to the dragon, and the dragon receives the glory/worship. This is what Lucifer has wanted forever.

This allows the little horn to rule over the 7. He is bringing peace out of the chaos on earth and consolidating power. He is Superman and wants the world to know it.

### **1.5 Whom does the beast war against?**

#### **Rev 13:5-9**

*5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. 6 It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. 7 It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. 8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.[b]*

*9 Whoever has ears, let them hear.*

*10 "If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go.*

*If anyone is to be killed[c] with the sword, with the sword they will be killed."[d] This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.*

Take a look at the 42 months on your chart. Satan will rule during half the tribulation. He will deceive the first half and devour the second half.

This little horn has “a mouth that spoke boastfully.” From this, we learn the Antichrist is persuasive, speaking “proud words and blasphemies” (Revelation 13:5). He holds the masses spellbound with his speeches and galvanizes the people of the world because of his ability to speak great things.

He is anti god and anti heaven, out to destroy anything or anyone associated with God

- A. Daniel 7:25, he will wear out the saints of God
- B. Daniel 8:24, he will destroy the holy people
- C. Daniel 11:33, they shall fall by sword, flame...etc

This is like the Jewish people

- A. Some have fled to the wilderness
- B. Some are sealed 144K
- C. Many will die for not submitting to the beast

Those who die are found in heaven

### **Rev 6:9-11**

*9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. 10 They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” 11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters,[e] were killed just as they had been.*

Summary: the beast of Revelation 13 is the same person as in Daniel 7, called the little horn, who rises to power from the 10 nations or kingdoms that have been formed. He gains power by defeating 3 of the 10, and the other 7 come under his authority. Once the antichrist triumphs, he is fatally wounded; and to the astonishment of the world, his wound is healed.

## **2. THE BEAST RISING FROM THE EARTH**

### **Revelation 13**

*11 Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. 12 It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. 13 And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. 14 Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. 15 The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the*

*first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. 16 It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, 17 so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. 18 This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man.[e] That number is 666.*

## **2.1 Who is the 2nd beast?**

He is not the first beast. We know this because: he appears like a lamb/horn but speaks like the dragon. We must cut through the symbols. Christ is the lamb and Satan is the dragon. He has the peaceful appearance of a lamb and the smooth tongue of a dragon.

### **Mathew 24:24**

*For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*

### **Revelation 19:20**

*But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.*

The 2nd beast is the false prophet and the 3rd person of the unholy trinity

1. Dragon
2. Beast 1 - antichrist
3. Beast 2 - false prophet

In this unholy trinity,

- A. Satan himself counterfeits God the Father;
- B. The Antichrist counterfeits God the Son,
- C. and the False Prophet counterfeits God the Holy Spirit.

Matthew tells us that Christ received authority from the Father (Matt. 11:27). In a similar way, the Antichrist will receive authority from the dragon, who is Satan (Rev. 13:4).

The primary purpose and objective of God's Holy Spirit is to glorify the Son (John 16:14). The False Prophet will imitate this purpose by leading people to worship the Antichrist (Rev. 13:12). The False Prophet will come on the scene as a religious leader. At the outset, he will encourage worship in all non-Christian religions, knowing that increased participation in multiple religions will dilute the influence of Christianity. But behind this façade of benign religious tolerance will crouch a demonic purpose, which is to compel all the world's diverse religions to worship the Antichrist.

## **2.2 What does it mean he came up out of the earth?**

Recall the witch at Endor, that Saul used to summon dead spirits out of the earth. Somewhere in the earth is a dark spiritual world from which Satan will mimic God. God sends two witnesses down to earth to minister for 1,260 days. Satan raises up two unholy false personalities out of the earth—the beast from the bottomless pit of Rev 17 and the false prophet in chapter 13.

### **2.3 What do we know about the 2 horns?**

Horns in the bible represent power, most often political power; but these two horns are not crowned. He has power but not the political kind. The 2nd beast defers all power and authority to the 1st beast. Beast 1 is a political power, and beast 2 is a religious power. He is a prophet but a false one.

He performs signs (healing)

He deceives the world (He comes like a lamb but talks like the dragon. He is a wolf in sheep clothing)

He causes the world to worship the beast

He brings down fire like Elijah (has to be as big as the 2 witnesses)

### **Lamb and Dragon**

It is significant that John's imagery combines two animals with opposite natures—the meekness and gentleness of a lamb merged with the predatory, devouring malevolence of a dragon. There is nothing random about this description. The False Prophet will come on the scene as a reasonable, humble, self-effacing person whose magnetic personality will easily attract a large following. He will be the epitome of the type of deceiver Jesus warned us against: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves" (Matt. 7:15).

Scripture indicates, however, that there may be even more purpose to the False Prophet's use of fire than mere mimicry. He will proclaim himself to be the fulfillment of Malachi's prophecy: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD" (Mal. 4:5).

### **2.4 What is the image of the beast?**

It is fashioned to honor the 1st beast. At one point it will speak. The 2nd beast will breathe life into the image, as part of the deception.

In Dan 3, an image of gold is erected on the plains of Babylon. Anyone who refused to worship was condemned to die. What we read in Rev 13 is the the 2.0 version.

During at last part of the first half of the Tribulation, the Jewish people, under their peace treaty with the Antichrist, will rebuild their Temple and begin offering sacrifices there (Daniel 9:27). However, midway through the seven-year Tribulation, that will all change. Likening the seven years to one week, Daniel 9:27 (NASB) says, "In the middle of the week he [the Antichrist] will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

At this point, the Antichrist will break his treaty with Israel and commit an act that is most often called “the abomination of desolation.” Scripture refers to this sacrilege several times (Daniel 9:27; 12:11; Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14).

What exactly is the abomination of desolation? The word abomination refers to an idol or image.

Warren Wiersbe says, “What is the abomination of desolation? It is the image of ‘the beast,’ set up in the temple in Israel in Jerusalem. An idol is bad enough; but setting it up in the temple is the height of all blasphemy. Since Satan could not command worship in heaven, he will go to the next best place—the Jewish temple in the Holy City.”

**Just as the Holy Spirit’s objective is to point people to Jesus Christ, so the False Prophet’s objective is to cause people to worship the Antichrist.**

—While the Antichrist’s focus is politics, the False Prophet’s emphasis is religion.

—During the Tribulation, with the absence of true religion, this false religion will help unite the world and solidify the political power of the Antichrist.

## **2.5 What is the mark of the beast?**

### ***Revelation 13:15-18***

*15 The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. 16 It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, 17 so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. 18 This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man.[e] That number is 666.*

When the Antichrist is revealed, the number of his name shall be 666.

We have seen that God seals his people upon Salvation, and he will seal and mark the 144K on their foreheads to keep them from harm during the tribulation.

God’s mark and Satan’s mark stand in stark contrast.

A. God’s is one of protection while Satan’s is one of destruction.

B. God’s is offered; Satan’s is forced.

There will be no commerce without it. Hard to feed the family if you cannot do any business. This will be a one-world system.

The technology for such a system is here.

—5G network is already in the super cities of the world and set to roll out to the remaining areas soon

—digital tattoo or quantum tattoo that can be placed under the skin and invisible to the eye.