

Revelation 13

As one examines this chapter it is important to remember that it is “a refinement of the more general discussion of the dragon in the previous chapter.” (BBC, Vol. 12, p. 312).

Satan is the embodiment of evil and the two beasts are the temporal manifestations on earth.

The First Beast (Anti-Christ)

One World Government

¹And **I stood** upon the sand of the sea, and **saw a beast rise up out of the sea**, having **seven heads** and **ten horns**, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads **the name of blasphemy**.

“I stood” appears in some Greek Manuscripts but **he stood** appears in the older and more reliable ones. MacArthur states that the first sentence of this chapter belongs as the last sentence of chapter 12.

“Saw a beast rise up out of the sea” The Greek word for beast is *Therion* and describes a wild savage animal, one that is a vicious monster. Undoubtedly this is referring to the Anti-Christ of 11:7

“Seven heads” Represents the seven empires of human history, including the one final empire of the last days.

“Ten horns” represents all of the world’s power and military might during the Tribulation era. These kings will reign simultaneously.

“The names of blasphemy.” Will ascribe deity to itself. It will take on a name that exalts itself above God. Thus, the age-old situation of Satan seeking to usurp the worship of God for himself.

²And the beast which I saw was **like unto a leopard**, and his feet were as **the feet of a bear**, and his mouth as the **mouth of a lion**: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

The Beast described

- “Like unto a leopard” = speed and viciousness
- “The feet of a bear” = Ferocity, strength and stability.
- “Mouth of a lion” = Fierce and consuming power

One needs to understand that this imagine is a composite one of Daniel's four beasts. See Daniel 7.

³And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Many dispensational scholars teach that the old Roman Empire will be resurrected and that this will be such an amazing event that it will cause other world governments to yield their allegiance to this resurrected power.

Another possibility is that this is speaking not of ancient Rome but of one of the kings who appears to be killed but is resurrected and as a result of this amazing feat, this will lend itself to apparent miraculous power of the Anti-Christ.

Regardless of how one interprets this verse the outcome is the same. The event will result in worldwide amazement, thus giving credence to the Anti-Christ.

⁴And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?

The beast will receive its power directly from Satan. It would appear that this first beast represents political power and worldwide dominance, hence the phrase: "Who is able to make war with him?"

Worship of this political power will actually be worship of Satan, since it is Satan who empowers this first beast.

⁵And **there was given unto him** a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty *and* two months.

"There was given unto him" = God permits the Anti-Christ to pour forth great blasphemies. God is Sovereign.

The Anti-Christ will have world dominance and speak out monstrous blasphemies for 3-1/2 years, i.e., the last half of the Tribulation era.

⁶And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

The Anti-Christ's blasphemies will be directed at:

- God
- His tabernacle = Heaven, where God resides.
- "Them that dwell in heaven. = The saints of God who are with him.

⁷And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

The Reign of Terror

1. God will permit the Anti-Christ to persecute and even kill believers.
2. Power over all peoples of the world. His power will be unsurpassed on earth. The atrocities of Hitler and Stalin will pale in light of this Totalitarian Fiend.

⁸And **all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him**, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from **the foundation of the world**.

“All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him. This is a phrase that commonly describes unbelievers throughout the book of Revelation. (3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 17:2-8).

“From the foundation of the world”

Five point Calvinists use passages such as this to argue for the Election of Saints. Thus, MacArthur states: “The book of life belonging to the Lamb, the Lord Jesus, is the registry in which God inscribed the names of those chosen for salvation for eternity past.”

There is another possibility with this phrase, however. It can also mean, “That Christ was slain before the foundation of the world.” (BBC, *ibid*, p. 314) That is, before creation the fact that Christ would come and die for the penalty of humanities sin was a done deal.

⁹If any man have an ear, let him hear.

This phrase is used fifteen times in the New Testament. It is always used to emphasize a matter of importance. Note that this phrase is used seven (7) times in Chapters two (2) and Three (3) alone. The phrase always ends with “let him hear what the Spirit sayeth unto the churches.”

¹⁰He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

This is a message for the Tribulation saints. Those who are destined for false imprisonment must not fight against it. Those who would take matters into their own hands are cautioned: “He that kills with the sword must be killed with the sword.” In other words, forfeit their own life by means of capital punishment.

“Faith is not believing that everything will work out well; it will not. Faith is that commitment to Jesus Christ which results in the conviction that can follow him through trial and death to ultimate victory.” (*Ibid*).

The Second Beast

(The Final False Prophet)

One World Religion

¹¹And I beheld **another beast coming up out of the earth**; and he had **two horns** like a lamb, and **he spake as a dragon**.

This will be the false prophet. The false prophet will come with meek winsome words unlike the first beast. The two horns stands in contrast to the grotesque description of the first beast and implies that the false prophet will not necessarily resort to the tactics of the first beast, at least not at first.

“He spake as a dragon” clearly shows that he is demonically guided and controlled. His main ploy will be one of deception. Cf. the details of false prophets in the O.T. E.g., Isa. 9:15’ Jer. 14:13-15; Lam. 2:14; I Kgs. 22:10-28; Neh. 6:10-12; Num. 22-24.

The main characteristic of a false prophet was to speak smooth comforting words to the people. They were often greedy and self-seeking. They told the people what they wanted to hear.

¹²And he **exerciseth all the power of the first beast** before him, and **causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast**, whose deadly wound was healed.

The False Prophet will not be powerless however. He will have the power of Satan behind him. But the objective of the false prophet is to cause everyone to worship the Anti-Christ.

One of the ways that this will be accomplished is the healing of the mortal wound of the first beast. The False Prophet and the Anti-Christ are not in competition but rather are both agents of the red dragon (Satan).

¹³And **he doeth great wonders**, so that **he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men**,

He will perform signs in front of people to amaze them. He will even call down fire from the skies in the sight of men.

¹⁴And **deceiveth them that dwell on the earth** by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

Thus such amazing acts will undoubtedly be used to convince people that the Anti-Christ is truly the one worthy of worship.

Remember that the Anti-Christ is just that, **against** Christ. He will seek to imitate the miracles of Jesus in order to convince people that he really is worthy of worship.

¹⁵And **he had power to give life unto the image of the beast**, that the image of the beast should both speak, and **cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.**

“He had power to give life unto the image of the beast...”

The false prophet will have such demonic power that he will make the statue of the beast to appear to come to life. This deception will be so realistic that it will actually appear to speak.

“Cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”

The true colors of the false prophet will here be unveiled.

Many Christians will be put to death but some will escape to enter the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. Matthew 25:31-40. Two-thirds of the Jews will be killed, but a remnant will escape. Zech. 13:8-9; Rev. 12:6-7,14).

The Mark of the Beast

Nothing stirs the imagination more than that of the Mark of the Beast. People have speculated through the centuries about this issue.

¹⁶And **he causeth all**, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, **to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:**

“He causes all...to receive a mark in their right hand or in their foreheads.”

This mark stands in contrast to the Mark that God put upon his people earlier in Revelation. Remember a mark designated ownership

This mark will be placed on the right hand or on the forehead, thus showing allegiance to the One World Government and False Religion.

¹⁷And that **no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**

Only those who accept the mark will be allowed to buy and sell. This of course will be disastrous to the people of God.

Those who receive the mark must either have the name of the beast or his number 666 engraved upon their forehead or right hand.

¹⁸**Here is wisdom.** Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* Six hundred threescore *and* six.

“Here is wisdom.” Those living in the tribulation times need to be aware of all that is taking place. That which will occur should not surprise them.

The Anti-Christ will have the number of a man. God’s number is seven (7). Mans number is six (6) signifying man’s shortcoming of perfection and God’s glory.

Satan was kicked out of heaven; he came down to earth to make war against humanity, especially the people of God.

He wants to take as many to hell with him that he can.

Prayerfully yours,

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August 19, 2015