

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Revelation 13:1-18 | Session 17 | The Unholy Trinity and the Mark of the Beast

In the book of Revelation, there are seven pairs of visions given to John. The first pair of visions pertains to events that are taking place in Heaven, and the second part of the pair concerns events taking place on Earth.

- The First Vision in Heaven (4:1-5:14).
- The First Vision on Earth (6:1-7:8)
- The Second Vision in Heaven (7:9-8:6).
- The Second Vision on Earth (8:7-11:14).
- The Third Vision in Heaven (11:15-18).
- The Third Vision on Earth (11:19).
- The Fourth Vision in Heaven (12:1-12)
- **The Fourth Vision on Earth (12:13-13:18)**

THE FOURTH VISION ON EARTH (12:13-13:18)

The Rise of the Two Beasts; From the Sea and the Earth (13:1-18)

The Beast From The Sea (13:1-10)

The dragon (Satan) has been cast down to earth (a future event during the seven years). In his fury, Satan summons two beasts, one from the Sea and the other from the Earth, to carry out his ill-fated plan to destroy the woman's seed, (Genesis 3:15), Jesus Christ, *and* the woman herself, Israel. John watches it unfold from **the sand of the sea** as the first beast, the Anti-Christ, makes his debut.

The prophet¹ Daniel had a dream and visions (Daniel 7) of four *great beasts* that came up from the sea. Daniel's dream concerned the Times of the Gentiles; the beasts represent kings or rulers. One beast in Daniel's vision was more dreadful than the others, in that it had ten horns. Three horns were plucked out, and another little horn grew in their place. In our Daniel study, we concluded that the little horn was the Antichrist who would rise to power and "Make war with the saints...." This dreadful beast and the little horn of Daniel 7 are the same in Revelation 13: but we now get new information, i.e., This beast from the sea will get his power from Satan.

¹ The Jewish Torah does not include the book of Daniel with the Old Testament Prophets, he is included in The Writings. Yet, in Matthew 24:15 and Mark 13:14 Jesus refers to him as "Daniel the prophet."

What we see unfold in this passage is the formation of the *unholy trinity*. The Dragon (Satan, Anti-God) was introduced in chapter 12:3. The Beast from the Sea (Anti-Christ), and the Beast from the Earth (The False Prophet - Anti-Holy Spirit) are introduced in Revelation 13:1,11.

A HIDEOUS BEAST RISES FROM THE SEA

Verse 1 —

And I stood upon the sand of the sea. We have a textual difference in this verse. The Textus Receptus says, “I stood,” and the Critical Text says, “he stood.” We discussed the problem in Session 14 of various Greek manuscripts being used to translate the New Testament. The issue is that they often contradict each other. In session 14, the word in question was found in chapter 8:13. Some translations say “angel,” and others say “eagle.” One of them is correct, and the other is not. Here, we have a similar problem. Either John is standing on the sand of the sea, or it is the dragon. ²

It makes more sense in the context that **John stood upon the sand of the sea**. In verse 11, when *another beast* comes up from the earth, John says, “*I beheld.*” All the translations say “I beheld” in verse 11. John beheld the beast in verse 11, and it makes sense that John was a beast in verse 1.

If we say that it doesn’t make any difference to the outcome, we would be correct, but it makes a difference for the integrity of Scripture. If we believe all Scripture is inspired and is the very Word of God, what exactly did John write? That is what we want to determine. I think a *best practice* when interpreting the New Testament is to always default to the Textus Receptus as the most reliable Greek manuscript.

And saw a beast rise up out of the sea. John saw a **beast**; the Greek word *Therion* is a wild beast, unlike the word *beast* in chapter 4, which was the Greek word *zoon*, or a living being. This one coming up out of the sea is something to be feared. This beast, or this little horn Daniel described, is the one we call the AntiChrist. From the context, we will see that.

The sea in this passage, as well as in Daniel chapter 7, is sometimes interpreted as a symbol for Gentile nations, showing that the Antichrist may be of non-Jewish origin. There are reasons for that interpretation which we will not look at in this study. In that case, **the sea** would be symbolic and not literal. If taken literally it would likely refer to the Mediterranean Sea.

Regardless, a beast emerges on the world scene.

Seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name blasphemy. There is a lot of guessing about these seven heads and ten horns. According to some interpretations, the seven heads may represent seven empires that have historically posed a threat to the existence of the Jewish people, namely Egypt, Syria, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. They might be right, or they might not.

² All the translations in the 20th and 21st centuries (e.g. ESV, NASB, NIV, NCV, NLT, HCSB, et al) translate from the *critical text* that it is the **dragon** who is standing on the shore. Translations prior to the 20th century, with one exception, (e.g., KJV, NKJV, Geneva Bible, Tyndall, Darby, Young’s Literal, Coverdale, et al) translate the verse with John “**I**” who is standing on the shore.

Many speculate that there will be a revived Roman Empire. I question that interpretation and suggest that the Antichrist, resembling Nebuchadnezzar, may arise from a revived Babylonian Empire.³

This superhuman beast, who appears to be one head, will rule over all the other kings, and spew out blasphemy (extreme hatred) against God.

THE BEAST'S POWER IS DERIVED FROM THE DRAGON

Verse 2 —

And the dragon gave him power, and his seat, and great authority. The beast, or the one we call Antichrist, will derive all of his power from the dragon, who is Satan, and the dragon will direct every move the Antichrist makes. Satan will appoint a human as his tyrannical ruler for seven years, granting him global reverence by the people. The beast will worship the dragon from whom he derives his power, but will eventually be devoured by the very creature he worshipped.

Satan has been looking for a candidate to deceive the world and to devour or destroy since the beginning. He even attempted to devour Jesus Christ Himself when in Luke 4:6,7 he promised Jesus *all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would only worship him*. Jesus replied, *Get thee behind me, Satan!*

Perhaps we misread 1 Peter 5:8 by reading ourselves into the passage, where Peter instructs his readers to “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour?” Is this an allusion to the devil’s ongoing work to find a man to fulfill his destructive purpose?

The beast's description, which included the likeness of a leopard, which I would assume leopard-like spots, and bear-like feet, and a lion's mouth, aligns with the interpretation from Daniel 7, representing Greece, Medo-Persia, and Babylon.

But whoever the beast represents, certainly what is being described, is sovereignty over the world under Satanic power.

THE BEAST IS KILLED AND RESURRECTED

Verse 3 —

We have to make an assumption based on the context that the Antichrist is one of the seven heads of verse 1. At some point, the Antichrist is killed. John **saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death**. How, we are not told, but Satan will bring him back to life, **and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast**. This might be a false resurrection, as we will note later in the passage. The world marvels at this and it causes false worship.

However, if the *heads* are nations, this could refer to one of the nations being revived. Some believe that it is not the antichrist who is killed and revived, but a nation. I have not followed that interpretation through to see

³ See my notes on Daniel regarding Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the statue.

what other problems it creates, but it would be a worthy study and we should not discount it outright. If it is a nation, those who do, generally believe it is the revived Roman empire, or a revived Babylonian empire.

The deadly wound and healing of the Antichrist is commonly interpreted as a parallel to Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. It is an interpretation that I agree with, considering 13:18, where *the number of the beast...is the number of man*. Thus, aligning with the idea of the unholy Trinity.

THE RESURRECTED BEAST IS WORSHIPPED BY THE WORLD

Verse 4 —

They (the world's people) worshipped the dragon, which gave power...and **worshipped the beast**. This lends itself to the idea of the one slain and resurrected as being a superhuman man, not a nation. Nations are not worshipped. It doesn't take much for people to be duped, and here the world falls into line with Satan's puppet by saying, **Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?** This is being said with an attitude of awe and pride in their world leader. The word **worshipped** means *prostrating oneself, before a person and kissing his feet*.

THE BEAST BLASPHEMES GOD AND ALL THE HEAVENLY HOSTS FOR THREE AND A HALF YEARS

Verse 5, 6 —

Give a dictator an inch, and they'll take a mile. This resurrected Antichrist can freely say whatever Satan puts into his mouth, and the people will not protest. He has complete allegiance and, with great power for forty-two months (3.5 years), turns the world against God, speaking great things and blasphemies. The world's people will follow whatever he tells them. They will, figuratively speaking, *put on their masks and take the vaccine without resistance!* Rather than seek the truth, the people will be in awe of what they are experiencing. Don't confuse experience for the truth.

THE BEAST ATTACKS THE JEWS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Verse 7 —

With no pushback from anyone, **it was given him to make war with the saints**. Since we in the Church have been raptured before these events of the Tribulation, the saints, or holy ones, refer to God's chosen People, the Jews. These are the subject of the Revelation—The Time of Jacob's Trouble (Jeremiah 30:37). These **saints** are Daniel's people, to whom Gabriel referred in Daniel 9:24.

Therefore, **All kindreds, and tongues, and nations** are a reference to all the Jews scattered throughout the world during the Tribulation. The antichrist is going after them all in the second half of the seven years, and he will have the backing of the rest of the world. No one will stand up to help the Jews, just like was experienced in WW2 when six million Jews were murdered and the world was silent.

ALL BUT THE OVERCOMERS WORSHIP THE BEAST

Verse 8 —

The context in Revelation and chapter 13, particularly, is ALL Jewish. We should be careful to not read ourselves into this verse. **The Book of Life of the Lamb, slain from the foundations of the world**, contains the names of Jews, not those in the body of Christ. It is a book in which names can be blotted out (Rev. 3:5). Daniel 12:1 mentions this book,

*“For the children of **thy people**...there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time **thy people** shall be delivered, **every one** that shall be found written in the book.”*

The book of life demands more study and we will look at it more closely in subsequent sessions.

Verse 9 —

If any man have an ear, let him hear. Literally, *if anyone has an ear*; this is an exhortation to listen up.

A MAN WILL REAP WHAT HE SOWS DURING THE TRIBULATION

Verse 10 —

He that leadeth...and he that killeth. These are Hebrew idioms (or sayings). In other words, you will reap what you sow. The point is, none will escape the beast. For the Jews, they will need much **patience and faith**.

Revelation 14:12 elaborates, *“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”*

The Beast From The Earth (13:11-18)

A SECOND BEAST CAUSES THE WORLD TO WORSHIP THE FIRST BEAST

Verse 11,12 —

Another beast coming up out of the earth. With **all the power of the first beast**. This beast is superhuman from the start and is energized by satanic power. This beast is called *the False Prophet* three times; 16:13; 19:20; 20:10. The first beast is political, this beast is religious. As noted above, we might call the False Prophet the anti-Holy Spirit. The dragon is anti-God; the beast is anti-Christ. These beasts are individuals directed and possessed by the spirit of the dragon, Satan.

He had two horns like a lamb. We saw in Revelation 5:6 that a **horn** represents power. He **spake as a dragon**. If a dragon is a kind of serpent, then the dragon is likely emitting a hissing sound.

Causeth the earth and them that dwell therein to worship the first beast. The word **causeth** is in the active form, showing that this False Prophet creates some kind of great delusion. And lest we forget God is in control, still, it is God who sends this delusion through the False Prophet, *“Therefore God will send them a strong delusion, that they should believe the lie...”* (2 Thessalonians 2:11).

This false prophet induces people to worship the Antichrist who was brought back to life (but in what form?).

God is nowhere to be seen in this worship. In the new religion to come, God will be left out, and man will be exalted. We saw this delusion on a small scale with the evil Dr. Fauci. Because of his authority, he was lauded by governments worldwide, and people went along with lockdowns, masking, and vaccinations; all are now proven to have been a detriment to health and well-being rather than a help. This future worldwide religion will be a combination of human wisdom, science, progress, and philanthropy (think of the deceptive Bill Gates), combined with everything else that gratifies the lowest instincts of fallen humanity. We are even now experiencing the world hurtling toward this end.

THE SECOND BEAST PERFORMS GREAT WONDERS IN THE SIGHT OF ALL
Verse 13—

And he does great wonders (miracles). The False Prophet mirrors the genuine Holy Spirit's manifestations, which include tongues of fire in Acts 2:3.

“And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.”

THE SECOND BEAST DECEIVES AND FORCES EVERYONE TO SET UP AN IMAGE OF THE FIRST BEAST
Verse 14—

And the whole earth is **deceived by the means of those miracles**. The False Prophet and the Antichrist are doing this work from Jerusalem, where the Temple is located during the Tribulation. If the Antichrist has set himself up in the Temple, along with an image of himself, this is where the miracles are being performed **in the sight of the beast**. This is what Daniel referred to as the **abomination** (Daniel 9:27):

“...and in the midst of the week, he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate...”

Jesus calls this the **abomination of desolation** (Matthew 24:15):

“When ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place...”

The passage states that each person on earth will **make an image to the beast**. Is this some kind of artificial intelligence?

THE SECOND BEAST GIVES LIFE TO THE IMAGE AND KILLS THOSE WHO WILL NOT WORSHIP THE IMAGE
Verse 15—

Give life (pneuma) **to the image of the beast**. It is the **image**, it has the same form as the beast but is not the actual person. Will each image (in each home?) be able to report if it is being worshipped or not? Does this involve supernatural A.I. or listening devices that require worship? Is this a supercharged Alexa? Whatever it is, making it optional is deadly. **As many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed** (See Luke 21:16). Death is the final degree of persecution.

THE SECOND BEAST FORCES ONTO EVERYONE A MARK NEEDED TO BUY OR SELL Verses 16, 17 —

The False Prophet (Anti-Holy Spirit) **causeth all to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads.** Without this mark, **no man might buy or sell.** The government tried to impose vaccine passports on everyone, but it failed, and we saw the potential problems it could have caused. This one won't fail. This is the ultimate *passport*.

A mark in their right hands, or in their foreheads. Many translations say **on** instead of **in**. The Greek word is *epi*; It can be translated on, upon, by, and in. If the mark of the beast is computer chip technology, it appears the KJV translators were prescient in 1611 and got it correct. It makes sense this would be an implant **in the right and....or in the forehead**. Since the mark can be refused under penalty of death, it must be some kind of man-made mark rather than anything supernatural.

THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE FIRST BEAST IS THE NUMBER OF A MAN—666 Verse 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. 666. This wisdom and the ability to **count** (aorist tense, a point in time) **the number of the beast** will come in the future during the Tribulation. At that time, there will be understanding. Though many try, we completely cannot understand this today.

Revelation | Session 17 Outline

- ◆ A hideous beast rises from the sea.
- ◆ The beast's power comes from the dragon.
- ◆ The beast is killed and resurrected.
- ◆ The resurrected beast is worshipped by the world.
- ◆ The beast blasphemes God and all the heavenly hosts for three and a half years.
- ◆ The beast attacks the Jews throughout the world.
- ◆ All but the overcomers worship the beast.
- ◆ A man will reap what he sows during the Tribulation.
- ◆ A second beast causes the world to worship the first beast.
- ◆ The second beast performs great wonders in the sight of all.
- ◆ The second beast deceives and forces everyone to set up an image of the first beast.
- ◆ The second beast gives life to the image and kills those who will not worship the image of the first beast.
- ◆ The second beast forces onto everyone a *mark of the first beast* needed to buy or sell.
- ◆ The identification of the first beast is the number of a man — that number is 666.