

The Beasts

Revelation 13

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The Beast from the Sea

Revelation 13:1-10

Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. ² Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. ³ And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. ⁴ So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

⁵ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. ⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear. ¹⁰ He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

What does the sea symbolize?

The "sea" is a symbol of the disordered and confused life of the Gentile nations that is often in stormy turmoil.

What does the beast symbolize?

There is a double meaning here...

- This Beast is a monstrous SYSTEM, a symbol of the last world political power that will be present in the earth and control all the nations at the time of the end... aka New World Order (see Daniel 7)
- This Beast is also God's symbol of a MAN, of a particular person --- that of the final Antichrist (Rev 13)

What do the seven heads represent?

These are the seven empires that have ruled over Jerusalem...

Revelation 17:9-11 – *Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.*

(1) Egypt, (2) Assyria, (3) Babylon, (4) Medo-Persia, (5) Greece, (6) Rome [the "one that is"], (7) Ottoman Empire, and (8) the 10-ruler Kingdom that becomes the Antichrist Kingdom

What phase are we in now?

- The pre-cursor to the 10-ruler kingdom
- Many aspects of our government is in the spirit of Antichrist.

What do the 10 horns and crowns represent?

- Horns – power
- Crown – authority
- The ten world rulers who will yield their sovereignty to the Antichrist:

Revelation 17:12-13 – *The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.*

Why do the heads have a blasphemous name?

The kingdoms are at odds with God; indeed, they hate him...

Psalm 2:1-3 – *Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."*

v2 – What does the description of the beast represent?

- Leopard – fast, camouflaged
- Bear feet – big, powerful and deadly
- Lion mouth – carnivorous, powerful and deadly

What does this description tell us about the world government of the Antichrist?

It is not one you want to have to oppose... you will not want to be an enemy of the state. ...and as this corona virus outbreak has shown us, all the oppression will be done “for your safety.”

What makes the government of the Antichrist so terrible?

His power, position, and authority comes from Satan.

Why does God allow Satan to have such power and authority?

While sin has consequences, God makes use of them to serve His purpose in pouring out His wrath on those who reject Him.

v3 – What happens to one of the heads of the beast?

- It is killed but then brought back to life... not sure what this is but will become clearer when it is fulfilled.
- It could be that one of the seven foundational nations for the Antichrist empire is destroyed but comes back to life to the amazement of all (maybe the future 10-king federation).
- Some say it is the person of the Antichrist himself who is killed by a head wound and is resurrected (see v12).
(but remember the Beast is more than a person, it is a system of government)

Why will all the world follow the Antichrist?

He has great power and does amazing things ...and there is great deception:

Revelation 13:14 – And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

v4 – Who will people worship during the Tribulation?

They will worship the Antichrist and the one who gives power to him (Satan).

Will there be overt Satanism?

Certainly in some cases but most will just worship some power other than the Creator-God of the Bible. (kind of like today)

How will people rationalize worship of the Antichrist?

His successful campaigns and invincibility will make him appear to have the power of God.

How have we seen a foreshadowing of this political invincibility in our day?

When Obama was president, he was so beloved by many that no one could criticize his policies for fear of being labeled a racist. This is the spirit of Antichrist.

v5 - What does the Antichrist do?

He makes great claims about himself and blasphemes God for 3.5 years.

What is significant about the 3.5 years?

It refers to the second half of the Tribulation

v6 – How does the Antichrist blaspheme God?

He denies that Jesus is God and that He occupies the Spiritual Realm and that His followers (the church) are present with Him in heaven.

- He denies the rapture of the church perpetrating the “great delusion” narrative explaining away the rapture (2 Thess 2:11).
- Those professing Christians who missed the rapture will be more than happy to believe him.

v7 – What else does the Antichrist do?

He hunts down the followers of Christ among all the nations of the earth to kill them.

Who gives the Antichrist the authority to kill Christians?

Satan does but God allows.

Why would God allow Satan to kill Christians?

Because it serves His purpose... many more will come to Christ when they see how His followers die. It also serves to build up wrath against Satan and his followers.

v8 – Who will worship the Antichrist?

All the earth-dwellers (naturalists, those who give no thought to the Creator-God)

What else distinguishes those who worship the Antichrist?

Their names are not in the Book of Life of the Lamb... they are not children of God

When is a person's name written in the Book of Life of the Lamb?

When they respond to the Holy Spirit and are born again.

What does it mean that the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world?

It was always God's plan for Jesus to pay the price of redemption for us.

v9 – What does this phrase tell us?

Get ready for an important point that only the spiritually discerning will understand.

v10 – What is the important point we need to understand?

- Those who live by the sword will die by the sword.
- There will be consequences for persecuting the followers of Christ.

What is the patience and faith of the saints?

The followers of Christ endure persecution knowing that their place in eternity is secure and trusting in the promises of God.

The Beast from the Earth

Revelation 13:11-18

¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. ¹² And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. ¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. ¹⁵ He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. ¹⁶ He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

v11 – Who is this other beast?

This is the False Prophet who causes earth-dwellers to worship the Antichrist

So who are the key players in the religious system of the Tribulation?

- The unholy trinity... Satan, Antichrist, and False Prophet.
- Satan is not very creative; he has to mimic God so he raises up his own substitute for Christ and the Holy Spirit

How is this false prophet described?

He looks like a lamb – a wolf in sheep's clothing representing himself as a Christian
Speaks like a dragon – speaks as Satan

What is the significance of the False Prophet coming up from the earth?

The heart of the earth is the land of Israel... It could be this False Prophet claims to be Jesus Christ and he comes on the scene to convince apostate Christians that the Prophet Mohammad had it right... the Bible was corrupted but the Koran is the true so they should worship al Mandi (the Antichrist) [Moslems expect this to happen]

v12-14 – What does the False Prophet do?

- He acts in the authority of the Antichrist (is empowered by Satan) when in his presence (Satan is not omnipresent)
- He causes earth-dwellers to worship the Antichrist as God
- He does miraculous signs such as fire coming down from heaven
- He deceives the earth-dwellers
- He makes an image of the Antichrist to facilitate earth-dwellers worshipping him

v15 – What is the purpose of the image of the beast?

It will help insure that people do indeed worship the Beast... it automates the process because the Beast is not omnipresent.

v16-17 – What else does the False Prophet do?

He institutes a system of control over all people that only those who are authorized may engage in commerce... only genuine worshipers of Antichrist will be authorized.

How does today's technology reveal what might be the image of the beast?

- An automated system whereby people may swear allegiance to the Antichrist to receive their mark which enables them to buy and sell.
- Artificial intelligence and computer vision can verify whether someone is telling the truth and would help the unholy trinity to be more like God.

v17-19 – What is the mark of the Beast?

- Some sort of personal identification that shows the person has sworn allegiance to the Antichrist and is thus authorized to engage in commerce.
- Some have pointed out that RFID technology or a micro tattoo could do this.
- Blockchain digital money will replace physical money making it easier to control transactions. Bitcoin was the first but now governments want a piece of the action.

What is significant of the number 666?

Six is the number of man, three is the number of God... this is man representing himself as God.

Why the right hand or forehead?

Right hand if you have one... forehead if not. (Sharia Law calls for amputating hands as a punishment for theft).

Why will the earth-dwellers submit to the Mark of the Beast system of commerce?

- They will have no choice due to the power of the Antichrist ("*who is able to make war with him*", verse 4)
- They will readily embrace it since the Antichrist is their savior and it solves so many problems promising to help them out of the economic crisis they're having.
- Besides, it will help the World Rulers root out and destroy those dastardly followers of Christ who are holding society back as they have been deceived to think.

What stands out in this chapter that is a comfort to us in the here and now?

We can see the foreshadowing of the spirit of Antichrist which means the Tribulation is near and thus the rapture is even closer.