

Satan's Opposition to God

Part 2: The Beasts Arising from the Sea and the Earth

Study 13. Revelation 13

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A. The Beast Arising from the Sea. 13:1-10 (The Antichrist ¹ and his Regime)

1. The description of the beast. 13:1-3a

- a. Who stood on the seashore? 13:1 _____
(This is evidently the being empowering the beast John saw next.)
- b. What did John see arising from the sea? 13:1 _____
 - 1) How many horns did it have? _____ ²
 - 2) How many heads did it have? _____ ³
 - 3) How many crowns (diadems) did it have? _____. What, in your opinion, do the crowns stand for? _____ ⁴
 - 4) What names were on his heads? _____

¹ 13:1-10 - Antichrist. The beast in Rev. 13:1-10 represents both a regime and the leader of that regime. The regime is world-wide (see 13:3, 7). He is never called "Antichrist" here. That term is found in 1 John 2:18. Elsewhere he is called "the beast" (Rev. 11:7; 13:1-10; 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2, 10, 13; 17:3-17; 19:19-20; 20:4, 10). He is also to be identified with the eschatological (end-time) occurrence of Daniel's fourth beast (Dan. 7:19, 23). Paul called him "the man of lawlessness" and "lawless one" (2 Thess. 2:3, 8).

² 13:1 - ten horns: Elsewhere, John gives the reader assistance in identifying the meaning of the 10 horns. They represent 10 kings who reign contemporaneously for a brief time ("one hour") as underlings of the beast, or Antichrist (Rev. 17:12-13).

³ 13:1 - seven heads: It is difficult to know exactly what the seven heads represent. Seven seems to be the completed number of God's works. So God created the world in 7 days. Jesus is seen in Rev. 1 among 7 golden lampstands representing 7 churches whom Jesus addresses. He is holding 7 stars, which represent 7 angels (or messengers) of the 7 churches. The complete number of plagues with which Jesus afflicts the earth are a triad of 7 seals broken, 7 trumpets blown, and 7 bowls poured out. The 7 heads of the beast perhaps are an imitation of the 7 heads of the dragon. These seem to be Satan's attempts to imitate God, God's power, and God's program. It may also be that these 7 heads represent regimes down through history arraigned against God and His kingdom-rule upon earth (see Rev. 17:9-11).

⁴ 13:1 - diadems: The crowns, or diadems, probably stand for rulership and authority. Since the ten horns represent ten kings, it makes sense that the crowns were affixed on the horns, not the heads, of the beasts.

- c. The beast was a composite beast (13:2 – see Daniel 7:4-6). He was like a _____; his feet were like those of a _____; and his mouth was like that of a _____. It is best to understand his regime as a revived Roman Empire that will include aspects of the preceding Greek, Medo-Persian, and Babylonian empires.⁵
- d. What was unusual about one of the heads of this beast? 13:3a

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2. Global reaction to the beast. 13:3b-4

- a. What will be the reaction of the whole world toward this sinister world ruler? 13:3b

- b. Furthermore the whole world will participate in false worship. 13:4

1) They will worship the _____ because

2) They will worship the _____, saying

3. The influence of the beast. 13:5.

- a. What will be given to the beast? A _____ speaking

⁵ 13:2 - comments on empires. Daniel identified four great earthly world empires (three by name) succeeded by a fifth eternal kingdom from heaven (Dan. 2:31-45). He identified Nebuchadnezzar as the head of the Babylonian Empire in Daniel 2:36-38. He identified Medo-Persia as the Empire to succeed Babylon in Daniel 5:28, 30-31; 6:8, 12, 15, 28; 8:20; 10:13, 20; 11:2. He identified the Greek Empire as succeeding the Medo-Persian Empire in Daniel 8:21; 10:20; 11:2. Daniel 9:24-27 identifies the Roman Empire, not by name, but by virtue of prophesied future events eventually fulfilled in history.

⁶ 13:3 - "one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed": Many think the whole earth's amazement relates to the revival of the Roman Empire. When that happens, it will seem as the most natural "next step" of human history. Thus, it is difficult to understand how that will generate amazement. More likely, the Antichrist will receive a fatal wound from which he is subsequently resurrected by the power of Satan. Remember that it is the dragon who will give to this beast his authority (Rev. 13:4).

- b. For how long will he given authority to act? 13:5b _____⁷

- 4. The antagonism of the beast against God, His people, and His program. 13:6-10.
 - a. What will be notable about this dictator's speech? 13:6 He will blaspheme
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____⁸

 - b. His authority 13:7
 - 1) What authority will be given to this evil ruler to target a certain group of people? 13:7a _____

 - 2) Over what different entities will he be granted authority? Authority over every 13:7b
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____

 - c. Who will worship this blasphemous world dictator? 13:8a

⁷ 13:5 - forty two months: This time frame crops up frequently in Biblical prophecy: Dan. 7:25; 12:7; Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6; 13:5. These time frameworks seem to refer to the last half of the 7-year tribulation period (see Daniel 9:27).

⁸ 13:6 - tabernacle, that is those who dwell in heaven: Literally, John stated, "And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God – to blaspheme His name, and His tent – the ones in heaven tenting."

⁹ 13:8 - All who dwell on the earth: In the book of Revelation, John seems to use this phrase as code for the non-elect – unbelievers who will never change their mind and trust in Jesus because their names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb. They are earth-dwellers – people who are settled down and comfortable living on this present earth. Christians yearn for New Earth (Rev. 21-22), not this present one, which is stained and corrupted by sin, evil, decay, death, and destruction,

- d. These people are further identified (13:8b) as those whose _____

- e. Who is urged to listen? 13:9 _____
- f. There will be those both now and in that future time who listen to the voice of God and do not worship this or any other false ruler. If they resist the government, what can they expect? 13:10a
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
- g. What must all genuine believers (saints) exhibit? 13:10b
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____

B. The Beast Arising from the Earth. 13:11-18 (The False Prophet) ¹⁰

- 1. The description of the beast. John saw a beast arising from out of the earth. 13:11.
 - a. What did it look like? _____
 - b. What did it speak like? _____
- 2. The authority of the beast. 13:12
 - a. From whom did he derive his authority? 13:12a _____
 - b. What does he require the people who dwell upon the earth to do? 13:12b _____
- 3. The supernatural power of the beast. 13:13 What example is given of his power? 13:13 _____

and, in this present age (2 Cor. 4:4), ruled by Satan. Earth-dwellers are mentioned in Revelation 3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10 (2x); 13:8, 12, 14 (2x); 17:2, 8.

¹⁰ 13:11 title - false prophet: This second beast is identified as the "false prophet" in Revelation 16:13; 19:20; 20:10.

4. The deception of the beast. 13:14-15a
 - a. How is this second beast able to deceive the people dwelling upon the earth? 13:14a _____
 - b. What does he tell those dwelling upon the earth to make? 13:14b _____
 - c. What supernatural power was given to this second beast in regard to the image which men had constructed? 13:15a _____

5. The control of the beast. 13:15b-17
 - a. How did he attempt to force everyone on earth to worship the image of the first beast? 13:15b _____
 - b. What classes of people did this second beast attempt to control? 13:16a
 - 1) The _____ and the _____
 - 2) The _____ and the _____
 - 3) The _____ and the _____
 - c. What is the means by which the second beast imposed his control over all peoples? 13:16b. By requiring them to accept an identifying _____ either on their _____ or on their _____.
 - d. Without this identification, what would people be unable to do? 13:17a _____ or _____.
 - e. This identifying mark consisted either of the _____ of the beast or else the _____ of his name. 13:17b

6. The number of the beast. 13:18
 - a. Who is asked to calculate the number of the beast? _____
 - b. What is the significance of the number? Literally, the text reads, "For the

number – of _____ is..."¹¹

c. What is the number? _____¹²

C. Pause for Reflection

1. What characteristics of these two men, the World Ruler and his assistant, most stand out to you and why?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

¹¹ 13:18 "For the number – of man is." It seems that, to human minds, this numbering system identified as the mark of the beast constitutes a notable measure of success in human endeavor and achievement. The best that man can accomplish, apart from God, is to bind the entire world in economic and religious slavery. Men will think that this identification system is an unprecedented success in human endeavor. God sees it as slavery for the entire human race.

¹² 13:13. 666. 13:18 - 666: We are told that the number requires wisdom and understanding – therefore it evidently symbolizes something. The number is said to be that of man, hence it evidently symbolizes man. We know that man was the crown of God's creation on the sixth day of creation.

We know from Genesis and Revelation that seven is God's number: He has instituted a seven day week by creating the earth in six days and resting on the seventh (Gen. 1:1 - 2:3). He instituted the sabbath (seventh) (Ex. 16:22-30; 20:8-11) day for Israel. He punished Judah with a seventy-year captivity (Jer. 25:11-12; 29:10; Dan. 9:2; Zech. 1:12; 7:5) and outlined the course of history for Israel in units of seventy sevens of years (Dan. 9:24-27). In Revelation He has seven spirits, a seven-sealed book, seven angels blowing seven trumpets, and seven angels pouring out seven vials of wrath upon the earth.

The man in question, the beast, is as anti-God and anti-Christ as he can be. Therefore the number 666 seems to symbolize the best that man can produce apart from God. The results are appalling. The ultimate man apart from God – the false Messiah – is controlled and empowered by Satan. He is blasphemous, rebellious, filled with incredible pride, supremely controlling, demands worship, and is a global, murderous tyrant. The best that man can produce or accomplish apart from God is man's worst nightmare, as far as respect for freedom and for human life is concerned.

Some have detected in bar codes the number 666, stating that the beginning of a bar code is 6, as is the middle and the end. I have seen this demonstrated, but not consistently. We do know that we have the technology today to implant a tiny computer chip in a person's forehead or the back of his hand. Conceivably, a person could walk up to a scanner or place his hand underneath a scanner as a condition permitting commerce, much as we use a credit or debit card today. Of course, this will also provide the government with powers of identification and perhaps even satellite tracking! Time will tell how this eventuates.

2. Do you see any trends in today's world that show the stage is being set for global tyranny?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

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