



In this final study of our series, we'll be continuing our journey in Rev chapter 13 and we'll practice a few mental exercises. In part 5 we learned about the keys to help us decipher what we're reading, so we'll be leaning heavily on those again for this study. We also took a look at the first and second beast and viewed them through a different lens than what we might be used to. I'd like for us to pick back up on those verses we had to skip over in the last study, in order to help fill in some blanks.

To begin, we'll read Revelation 13:3-11 and see what jumps out at us.

Rev 13:3-11 *And 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. ⁴ And 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? ⁵ And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. ⁶ And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. ⁷ And 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. ⁸ And 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. ⁹ If any man have an ear, let him hear. ¹⁰ He 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. ¹¹ And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.*

Chapter 13 begins with the description of the first beast and all those predatory heads mentioned in the first 2 verses. Verse 3 says it received a deadly wound which gets healed. It doesn't tell us how it got the wound or how it was healed. And from verse 4 to 8, we're told of all the horrible things it did, with no mention of the wound or how it received it. Verse 8 ends with mentioning the Lamb slain from the foundations. The TRUE Lamb.

Verses 9 and 10 are really what jumped out to me. Verse 9 is literally the exact center of this chapter, and it seems that John is pausing in the narrative and indicating what follows is very important to the narrative. Verse 10 steps completely out of the narrative and the linear timeline and mentions captivity and dying by the sword and "the patience of the saints". Why mention this captivity and sword? Why are these two verses that don't fit in the vision, placed in the middle of the vision.

Allow me to suggest a reason. What if John mentions the captivity and sword in these verses to not only indicate that the first beast (Pagan Rome) receives its wound from the sword that the TRUE LAMB wields, but to also let us know that what follows is a "time loop" of sorts. To make us aware that the next few verses fill in the blanks between the time that the first beast received its wound, (Christ's sacrifice on the cross), and the time that its wound is healed by the second beast, (Papal Rome).

To make it easier to see this possibility, we'll have our first exercise. For the first exercise, we'll re-read Chapter 13, but we'll move verses 9-15, (the verses that start with the sword and end with the image given life), and place them in verse 3 between the beast being wounded and the beast being healed. Remember that Revelation is written in circular time, so it could be revealing something, and mid paragraph switch to a different angle of the same event, then switch back to the original perspective. Like watching a huge battle with a pair of binoculars and moving the focus from one point of focus to another point and back again. Let's see what happens...

EXERCISE 1: Seeing the two beasts in Circular Time

REV 13 *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, - (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. 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) - 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. - (verses 9-15 moved) - 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.*

For our first exercise, you'll notice that verses 9-15 have been moved to start in the middle of verse 3, right after the first beast receives its deadly wound. I left the verse numbers there so we can see where the move begins and ends, but I want us all to keep in mind that the original manuscripts didn't have verse numbers.

Those were placed there by men. And while they are very helpful for reference points, they also train our brain to see prophetic books in a linear way, which is sometimes more of a hurdle than a help.

I'm not suggesting we need to rearrange the verses, I'm suggesting that we rearrange the way we see the chronology of these verses, from linear to circular. In that way, instead of us possibly being deceived by waiting and searching for signs of a mysterious evil man to show up sometime in the future, we can see clearly that there's been a dragon coiling around the BRIDE of Christ for a long time, and it looks like a lamb.

To summarize, the first beast was PAGAN ROME. A beast that rose from, represented, and had the power of all the previous empires before it- **{vs 1-2}**. Then the Living Word came and with the spiritual SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, He mortally wounded PAGAN ROME- **{vs 3}**, the beast that killed with the literal sword and led multitudes into captivity- **{vs 9-10 reference}**. Then John sees another beast rise from the earth, (a symbol of resurrection),- **{vs 11}** which looks like a lamb, (the appearance of Christianity), but speaks as a dragon, (a symbol of satanic intent).

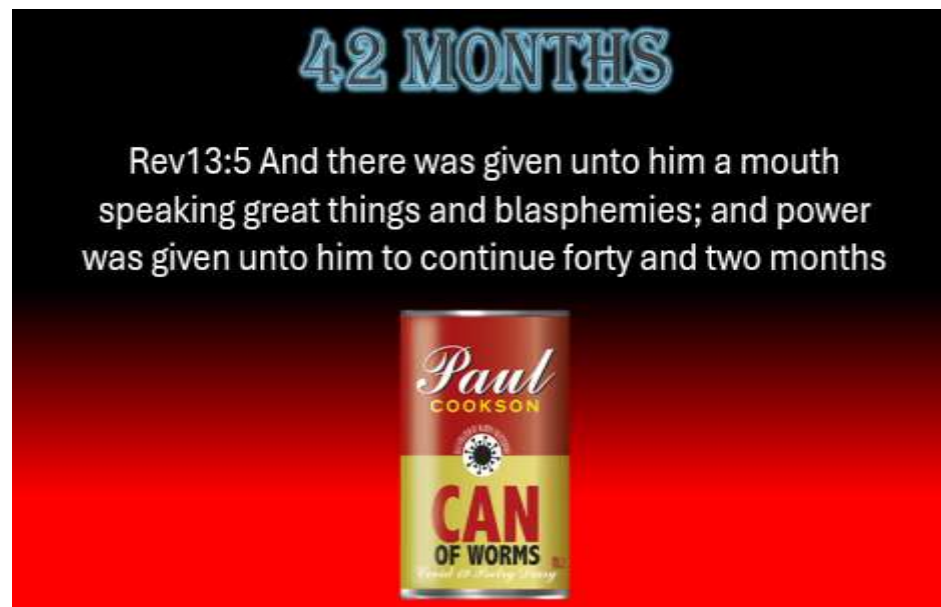
This beast has all the authority and power of the first beast,-**{vs 12}** but has a different appearance. This beast performs miracles-**{vs 13}** and deceives the world into being made in the image of the first beast, instead of the image of God- **{vs 14}** These two beasts are empowered by the same entity, the DRAGON- **{vs 2 and 15, then the time loop starts over and jumps back to the rest of verse 3 with a slightly different perspective}** The only difference between these beasts is how they appear and operate. The first beast operated by force and fear and appeared as a terrible beast with roots all the way back to Babylon.

The second beast operates with deception and appears as a lamb with horns. In essence, these two beasts are just different illusions of the same dragon.

By the way, lambs are baby sheep, and they don't have horns. We've learned from previous studies that horns in prophecy symbolize power, so this false lamb beast has two different powers. This beast is PAPAL ROME, and those two horns represent the political and religious power of the Papacy. With all that in mind, go back and read those verses again, through the lens of the time loop, and see if it helps clarify things?

Hopefully, that wasn't too uncomfortable, and that'll be the hardest exercise tonight. So now, let's move on to our next exercise, which is seeing the 42 months in a different way...

EXERCISE 2: Seeing the Parallel form of the 42 Months



There's a lot, and I mean A LOT of guessing and conjecture about when this time frame begins and ends. And like everyone, I have a few ideas, and as you can guess, they're based on history.

But we're not here to guess and God didn't inspire me to open that can of worms. So, I can honestly say, I'm not sure exactly when they begin.

What I would like for us to do though, is to change our focus from WHEN these 42 months are, to WHAT these 42 months are, or rather what they're symbolic of. To do that, we'll travel back to the past, into the O.T.

Daniel 9:27 *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: 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, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

I'm sure most of us here are familiar with what's called the 7-year tribulation. There's a whole doctrine built on this 7-year time frame. The thing is, nowhere in the Bible does it specifically say a 7-year time frame for the tribulation. That comes from this verse in Daniel, where it mentions 1 week, and in the middle of that week, the subject of this prophecy ends the sacrifices. Most popular interpretations view this as when the antichrist reveals himself after making a covenant with Israel and rebuilding the temple after 3.5 years, (in the middle of the week).

We won't be focusing on that. There's a lot there for us to learn and maybe even be surprised about on this topic, but that's for another study at another time. For this study, we're focusing on how 1 week can be 7 years. I agree that this 7 day time frame is symbolic of 7 years. That comes from the Bible and is a reference to prophetic time. Here's a few examples from Scripture that establish this point.

Numbers 14:34 *After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.*

Ezekiel 4:5-6 *For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. 6 And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year.*

These examples show us in scripture where a prophetic day is established to equal 1 literal year. Another interesting fact is that a Biblical year is exactly 360 days, divided by 12 months of

30 days. A Biblical year was different from the calendar year because it was used specifically to divide times prophetically, and learning about this can really help our understanding on those times mentioned in prophecy.

To make matters a little more complex, just like a prophetic day equals one 360 day literal year, 360 prophetic days equals one "prophetic year", which is a measurement of time consisting of 360 literal years.

- **1 "Prophetic Day" equals 1 Biblical Year**
- **A Biblical Year is exactly 12 months of 30 days (360 days)**
- **A "Prophetic Week" equals 7 Biblical Years**
- **A "Prophetic Month" equals 30 Biblical Years**
- **A "Prophetic Year" equals 360 Biblical Years**

Using this principle, let's look at some other times first, before we explore the 42 months.

Daniel 7:25 *And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*

3.5 ???

3.5 X 360 = 1260

Now, this is that 10 horned 4th beast that we already learned represented Rome from our previous studies. Not just pagan Rome, but also Papal Rome. That "time, times, and the dividing of time" is 3 ½. But 3

½ what? 3 ½ literal days doesn't make sense. Even "Prophetic Days" that equal 3 ½ years doesn't make sense, because we all know Rome lasted way longer than 3 ½ literal years. So, that leaves only one other option, 3 ½ "Prophetic Years". That equals out to exactly 1260 literal years. Feel free to check the math with a calculator, $3\frac{1}{2} \times 360 = 1260$. But is there another, more solid connection between "time, times, and a half a time" and 1260 days? Indeed, there is...

Revelation 12:6 *Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.*

Revelation 12:14 *But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.*

1260 days ÷ 30 days = 42 months

Notice how God keeps repeating the same thing over and over in these prophecies? In just this chapter, He tells us an event, then 8 verses later, He comes back and tells us the same thing, but in a slightly different way. There's a purpose for that. It connects the two different time frames, which aren't different at all, they're just worded differently. Also, we're hardheaded. That's why there are so many different views on prophecy.

I'd love to unpack this part of the vision, but I'll just say this: most scholars agree that the woman represents Israel, the TRUE Israel, the Israel of God, as in the Bride of Christ, Ecclesia Israel. And He doesn't have 2 brides. If that's the case, (and it's up to you to decide if it is or not) then we can definitely point to a time in history where the Ecclesia was in hiding for a very long time. Maybe even 1260 years.


Speaking of the 1260 "Prophetic Days", if we divide them by the 30 days of each month in the Biblical Year, we get 42 "Prophetic Months"!

So now, we have a new way of viewing those 42 months mentioned in Rev 13, as well as the "time, times, and half a time," and the 1260 days mentioned throughout prophecy. Like I've said before, my intention isn't to challenge anyone's view or beliefs, it's just to offer an alternative view that maybe we haven't considered yet or even knew about. The rest is up to the Holy Spirit and us to study.

EXERCISE 3: Seeing the Symbolism of The Mark Of The Beast

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

Rev 13:16 And 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



Revelation 7:2-3 Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

This is another topic that has a whole lot of guessing. You may have heard many ideas of what it could be.

A tattoo, a microchip, a barcode? It's nanobots, it's a vaccine, it's this, it's that. One thing that all those guesses have in common is that they are always something tangible, something physical. Very rarely is a symbolic, spiritual alternative offered as a possible view. So, let's try to find that.

For this one, we need to first look a little closer at the Seal of God. Just like all the other exercises, we'll be looking into the Bible and let God's Word show us a possible alternative.

Exodus 13:9 *It shall be as a **sign to you on your hand** and as a memorial **between your eyes**, that the Lord's law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the Lord has brought you out of Egypt.*

Deuteronomy 6:4-8 *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 **You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.***

Ezekiel 9:4 *and the Lord said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a **mark on the foreheads** of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it."*

Some background and context for these verses is, the verse in Exodus is God telling the Israelites to use the Feast of Unleavened Bread as a reminder that His Law is supreme. He uses the image of a symbol or sign on the hand and between the eyes (forehead). However, this doesn't imply a literal symbol, but a metaphorical, spiritual sign of belonging to YHWH.

The verse in Deuteronomy is what's called the Shema, and it's a prayer that identifies YHWH as the one true God. Again, He uses the symbol of a sign on the hand and forehead. Because of this verse, orthodox Jews still wear phylacteries on their hand and heads. Those phylacteries symbolize the thoughts (forehead) and actions (right hand) being submitted to God's authority and Law.

The verse in Ezekiel is actually a prophetic vision about Jerusalem being destroyed. In the vision, YHVH tells an angel to go and mark everyone's forehead that is angry at the abominations being done by the leaders, and those that didn't have this seal on their foreheads were to be killed. This is symbolic of acknowledging God as the TRUE Judge and having a heart for righteousness.

In the same way that these verses indicate something spiritual that symbolizes a person's loyalty to YHVH and His Word and His Law in our actions and thoughts, then so too does the **Seal of God** in Rev, through our faith in Christ, the True Lamb.

If that's the case, then possibly the mark of that beast, is a spiritual symbol of a person's loyalty to the false god and his word and his law in their actions and thoughts, and through faith in the false lamb.

All that leads me to this: Do I know for sure what that mark of the beast is, no I don't? But I'm 100% sure God knows, and I know He wants us to know, so the key to unlocking that will be found in His Word.

And that leads me to the final exercise...

FINAL EXERCISE: Acknowledging we don't know it all

Rev 13:17-18 *And 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. 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.*



I'm not ashamed to say I have no idea what it means for the mark to be both a name and a number. I don't understand the buying and selling. I don't get the 666 number. I don't have it all figured out. I've read and heard a lot about these aspects, from the name being the emperor NERO to the number representing Islam and everything in between. None of that really lined up just right, (at least for me), or gave me a lot of confidence in it.

History hasn't shed any real light on these and God hasn't revealed anything to me through prayer. I honestly don't know. And that's ok. In fact, it's more than ok, it's great, because that means He still has more to show us and we still have more to study.

I hope this series has been as much of a blessing to you as it has to me. Hopefully, we didn't cross the line too much, and if we did, I pray it was in a good way and that it encouraged more study in God's Word. With that said, that brings us to the conclusion of the series DREAMS OF DESTRUCTION, VISIONS OF VICTORY. AMEN.