

This is the future – what Jesus says “will take place later.”

Ch. 13

This occurs before the final series of seven bowls of wrath which starts in Rev. 15.

Rev. 13:1-3 – “And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear’s, and its mouth was like a lion’s mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.”

Who is this beast and how will he gain power in the world?

After the rapture, there will be great strife around the world. Satan will give his power to one man, the Antichrist. Let’s look at some of the symbolism from this scripture:

1. **The Sea** – symbolic of tumultuous waves of chaos in the world - The Antichrist rises out of this chaos. **Rev. 17:15** – “Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.”
2. **The Beast** – not a physical description but a description of his nature – His conduct is of a beastly nature.
3. **Ten Horns and Ten Diadems** – ten nations that will give him power
4. **Seven Heads** – perfect wisdom, just as the dragon
5. **A Leopard, A Bear, and A Lion** – Daniel prophesied about three great world powers, The Leopard – the Greek Dynasty, The Bear – the empire of the Meds and Persians, and The Lion – the Roman Empire. John is relating all of these powers to the Antichrist. Combining all of these symbols, who could the Antichrist be?

A Fatal Wound

Rev. 13:3 - “One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast.” Satan is the great replicator, trying to replicate the power of God. The Antichrist will come back to life just as Christ did and the world will worship him. How is this deception possible in the modern world?

Worldwide Worship of the Beast

Rev. 13:4 – “And they worshipped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshipped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?” Why would they worship Satan and the beast? And why would they ask this question?

Blasphemies, Blasphemies

The beast will blasphemy against God, Heaven, and against those who dwell in Heaven. He will kill all of the saints that are living. Why does the beast have such hatred for God? And what are his motives?

Rev. 13:10 – “If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.” Why are the saint’s endurance and faith being tested?

The False Prophet

Rev. 13:11 – “Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.” What could this description mean of this false prophet?

When the bible speaks of land or dirt, it’s usually a reference to Israel, God’s Promised Land. The false profit could come out of Israel. Can you see a correlation between Satan’s plan to be worshipped and God’s plan?

The false prophet is given power to perform miracles. He tells the people of the earth to “make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.” “Image” means “picture”. What could this image be Rev. 13:15...“that the image of the beast might speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.”?

Rev. 13:16-18 – “He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on this forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man’s number. His number is 666.” The false prophet and the Antichrist are going to make people participate in this or they cannot buy or sell. Thus they cannot eat or live. Those that do not participate will be persecuted. When have we seen this also occur in history?

The Number of the Beast

6 is the number for man. “Man was created on the sixth day; he labors for six days and rests on one.” 3 is the number for divinity. Three sixes is man attempting to be God. How long has Satan been attempting to be God?

Rev. 13:5 - ...”and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.” Satan is allowed to rule for 3.5 years.

Where do we also find this timeline?

Rev. 11:1 - ...”and they (the nations) will trample the holy city for forty-two months. And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, (forty-two months), clothed in sackcloth.” God gives a light to non-believers during this 3.5 year period, a chance to repent and turn to Him. How difficult will it be to turn to the one true God during this time on earth?