

# The Two Beasts

## Revelation 13:1-18

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Introduction: Chapter 13 tells us more about the antichrist & introduces us to the False Prophet. These 2, along with Satan, make up the "unholy trinity": Satan as counterfeit to God the Father, antichrist (Christ), & the false prophet (Holy Spirit). Note that the first 'beast' described is not only a man but also represents an empire.

### I. The Beast out of the sea (:1-10)

#### A. The beast representing the revived Roman Empire (:1-3)

1. His *peculiar origination* (:1).
  - a. "Out of the sea" - from the great mass (sea) of humanity, i.e., the Gentiles.
  - b. "The sea is a figure for a disturbed state of the nations, masses of the people in commotion, as, for example, in times of insurrection or revolution" (Dennett).
2. His *particular description* (:1).
  - a. "Seven heads" - Represent the seven ancient world empires: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, & the future empire of the beast.
  - b. "Ten horns" - "...kings who will reign simultaneously, receiving their power from the beast (Rev. 17:12)" (Walvoord).
  - c. "Ten crowns" - diadems, or symbols of governmental authority.
  - d. "Name of blasphemy" - exalting man as god, blaspheming in opposition to God & Christ.
3. His *prophetic comparison* (:2) -- cf. Daniel 7.
  - a. The leopard: Greece (7:6); bear: Medo-Persia (7:5); lion: Babylon (7:4).
  - b. "The beasts selected are typical of the revived Roman Empire in the great tribulation, having the majesty & power of the lion, the strength & tenacity of a bear, & the swiftness of the leopard" (Walvoord).
  - c. Verse 2 adds that this beast (empire) has satanic power coming from the dragon.
4. His *perplexing restoration* (:3).
  - a. "Deadly wound was healed."
    - (1) Death of the antichrist himself & then restored to life??
    - (2) "The wounding of one of the heads seems instead to be a reference to the fact that the Roman Empire as such seemingly died & is now going to be revived" (Walvoord).
  - b. "All the world wondered" - The revival of this empire is considered a miracle & a demonstration of Satan's power."

#### B. The beast revealed as the antichrist (:4-10)

1. **Worship** of the beast (:4-5).
  - a. "Because men worship Satan, they also worship the beast, that is, the man who rules over the revived Roman Empire. He is Satan's substitute for Christ as King of Kings & Lord of Lords..." (Walvoord). Other names for him: "Little horn" (Dan. 7:8); "Prince that shall come" (Dan. 9:26); "The idol shepherd" (Zech. 11:17); "Man of sin" & "son of perdition" (II Thess. 2:3); "Antichrist" (I John 2:18-22).
    - b. "There is a small step between patriotic reverence for an empire & reverence for the head of that empire. Satan will turn such reverence into idolatrous worship of the empire & of the head of the empire, the antichrist" (Custer).

- c. He has great military power, impossible to resist as well as great oratorical ability. Eloquence in speaking – see Dan. 7:8, 20, & 25.
  - 2. **Blasphemy** by the beast (:5-6).
    - a. Against God, God's name, God's dwelling, & God's people.
    - b. As the spokesman for Satan, he utters total irreverence for God (see Dan. 11:36-45).
  - 3. **Resistance** to the beast (:7-10).
    - a. Universal dominion, overcoming almost all with satanic help.
    - b. He overcame the saints: "In the will of God, many believers in Christ among both Jews & Gentiles perish as martyrs during this awful time of trial, while others are preserved in spite of all the beast can do" (Walvoord).
    - c. Resistance by the redeemed - those whose names are in the Book of life (:8).
      - (1) The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world?
      - (2) The names written before the foundation of the world? (All names of everyone ever born; names blotted out of those who refuse to accept Christ, Rev. 22:15).
    - d. The invitation to hear (:9-10, "If any man have an ear, let him hear..." – no reference to "the churches" since the church has been raptured) - a solemn message, those who persecute the saints will suffer the wrath of God. The promise (10b) is that they can be patient in tribulation.
    - e. Resistance by the saints is from their "patience" (patient endurance) & their "faith."
- Summary of 13:1-10, see Walvoord p. 204.

## II. The Beast out of the **earth** (:11-18)

### A. The *description* of his **person** (:11)

1. "Out of the earth" - Palestine, Genesis 12:6-7 -- He is an apostate Jew? Not necessarily?
2. "Two horns like a lamb" - his religious character (imitation of Christ).
3. "Speaks as a dragon" - he is controlled by Satan.

### B. The *demonstration* of his **power** (:12-18)

1. He causes all men to worship the beast (:12) (cf. ministry of the Holy Spirit - exalt Christ).
2. He does great "wonders" (signs) (:13) like fire from heaven (satanic power).
3. He deceives the whole world (:14-15) by giving the appearance of life ('spirit' or 'wind') to the image of the beast (robot? or demon-possession?) - cf. Mt. 24:24 & II Thess. 2:9-11.
4. He demands worship of the beast or death (:15) - cf. II Thess. 2:3-4.
5. He declares that all must receive the mark of the beast (:16-17) - "The mark is simply a token that they are beast worshippers, & it serves as an identification necessary to conduct business & to purchase the necessities of life" (Walvoord).

**Conclusion:** Verse 18 begins, "Here is wisdom". This is an appeal to those with understanding, spiritual common sense. The number of the beast is the number of man (6). Six is one short of perfection (7), & usually refers to the imperfection of man. Here the 3 sixes may suggest the 'unholy' trinity. Could it be that this number will be added to the identification number that everyone already has (cf. SSN + 666)? Those refusing to have this addition, which would mark them as worshippers of the beast, are cut off economically.

Learn the lessons here of Satan's Counterfeits [4 here > Trinity; Kingdom; Miracles; & Seal (mark).& elsewhere: counterfeit "Bible"; Love; Lifestyle; Family; Ministers; Music, etc.]; God's control, man's condition, & the believer's caution.

Though they would cannot avoid the coming judgment of the Tribulation, believers are promised to be spared (I Thess. 5:9). We are not looking for the antichrist, but for the Living Christ. Are you looking for Him? Is that your blessed hope?