

The Beast That Rises Out of the Sea

Rev. 13:1-10 – April 11, 2021

By the time we have reached Revelation 13, half the world is destroyed. Those that survived have suffered through three-and one-half years of war, famine, plagues, and death. Along with this, the aftereffects of two devastating meteor strikes killed one third of the world's trees and grass. This was followed by months of unexplained suffering and a deadly plague that lasted 1½ years.

The survivors are stunned, wounded and angry. How could a loving God allow this to happen?

Imagine what this did with global commerce, the medical community, local, national, and international governments, and the ecology. The world's infrastructure was merely hanging by a thread. They were in shambles. Everyone is desperate for normalcy. Who or what will lead them out of this dilemma?

As all this is unfolding, we find John standing on the sand of the sea, and he sees a beast rising out of the sea (Rev. 13:1).

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.”

It is a beast which suffered a deadly wound and was healed.

“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” (Rev. 13:3).

To this beast the world turns to rescue them. This is the one they believe will deliver them from this chaos. So, in a rushed frenzy the world yields itself to this spirit entity behind this emerging beast – Satan. They yield to his leader (the Antichrist), and his rule (Rev. 13:4). This is their hope, this is their believed salvation.

But before we look at this passage we need to turn to the book of Daniel where all this was predicted over 2500 years ago.

Daniel 7:7-8 – And the fourth beast

"I saw in the night visions, and **behold a fourth beast**, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.⁸ I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom *there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots*: and, behold, in this horn were **eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.**

Daniel is the original source regarding the Antichrist and his kingdom. In this passage, he is seen as a blasphemous leader and is pictured as a little horn arising from among the 10 horns of the fourth beast. This little horn represents a person, since it possessed "eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth speaking great things."

In the verse 7, Daniel noted that "three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots" indicating that this leader will destroy three of the rulers and subjugate the rest of the kings in his rise to power.

In Daniel 7:21 - reveals his hatred of the saints

"I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them."

Apparently, the blasphemous leader will lead a savage persecution of God's people until the Ancient of Days comes in judgment.

Daniel 7:23-24 describes the fourth beast's kingdom as one which will be different from all other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tear down and crush it.

"The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. ²⁴ And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings."

Daniel 7:25 - Again tells us his hatred of toward God and God's people.

"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."

Daniel 8:23b-25 describes his reign of terror

“And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. ²⁴ And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. ²⁵ And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

Daniel 9:26-27 he will confirm a 7-year covenant between Israel and many.

“And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 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.”

And finally in Daniel 11:36-37 we find he will institute a new religion.

“And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. ³⁷ Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.”

So, as we return the book of Revelation, we find a wounded, desperate world searching for a way out of their dilemma. They are looking for a leader.

John’s Vision of the Beast

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy” (Rev. 13:1).

The word for beast *therion* does not mean a domesticated animal but depicts a wild, savage, vicious monster. This represents the brutality and power of

the beast [both as a kingdom and its leader]. This seventh kingdom is described by Daniel 7:7 as “dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly.” Not only is the kingdom depicted as a beast, but the leader will have beastly characteristics for he will be the evilest dictator the world has ever seen.

Seven Heads and Ten horns

Rev. 17:8 gives us important detail to help us identify this beast. First, we learn the beast “was, and is not, and yet is” (Rev. 17:8c). Second, we learn the beasts seven heads are seven mountains (Rev. 17:9).

Seven Mountains

A mountain can be a prominent elevation on the surface of the earth, or **it can represent a kingdom, empire**, established authority, etc. [see Ps. 30:7; Jer. 51:25; Dan. 2:35, 37].

If it is a kingdom, then Rev. 17:10 indicates that five kingdoms have fallen, one is, and one kingdom is yet to come. The seven kingdoms then would be: 1) Egypt, 2) Assyria, 3) Babylon, 4) Media-Persia, 5) Greece, 6) Rome (the one that is at the time John wrote), 7) The seventh kingdom is yet to come. All these kingdoms have blasphemed the Almighty God

The Ten Horns: - Revelation 17:12 gives us more features.

“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.”

The Ten Crowns – Revelation 13:1 represent the regal authority or sovereignty that they possess over their individual kingdoms in that day.

Summarizing Revelation 13:1:

In the latter days, a global government will rise. It will govern the world through regional rule. This does not mean that nations will cease. I believe countries will continue to have their boundaries, but it will be like the first century AD where Judea, Syria and Egypt existed. They existed as countries but were governed regional governors or kings.

For example, Pontius Pilate governed Judea while King Herod Antipas governed Northern Israel and Syria. It will be so in the last days where the world will be divided into ten regions.

We know five kingdoms have past and we are living in the remnants of the sixth kingdom. Soon the seventh global kingdom will emerge.

The overall description of this beast - Rev. 13:2.

John describes this ferocious beast as a hybrid animal consisting of a body **leopard** - meaning it will be very swift (Dan. 7:6), Paws of a **bear** - meaning it will be powerful and can maul its opposition (Dan. 7:5) and A mouth of a **lion** - meaning it is ravenous, loud and fearful (Dan. 7:4).

When Daniel described these beasts in Daniel 7, he was looking forward in time (**Lion** - Babylon, **Bear** - Medo-Persia, **Leopard** - Greece, **Beast** - Rome) while the Apostle John was looking backwards in time (**Beast** - Rome, **Leopard** - Greece, **Bear** - Medo-Persia, **Lion** - Babylon) to describe this beast.

This beast is said to rise from out of the sea.

At the time of John's vision in Revelation 13, half the world has perished. Global commerce has been disrupted, the medical community crippled, local, national governments are in chaos and broken. One third of the world's ecology has been destroyed. The world's infrastructure was merely hanging by a thread. Everything is in shambles. People are in desperate straits. The global government is in ruins and appears to have failed.

But what does John see? – (Rev. 13:1, 3)

He "sees a beast rise up out of the sea" and "one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast." He sees a beast that had suffered a fatal wound to its head but arises out of its ashes healed and fiercer and angrier than before. From its mouth pours blasphemy against God and His children and He sees the world turn to worship Satan, and they deify the beast.

Who is wounded? – the Kingdom? or the Antichrist?

There are several views regarding the deadly wound to the head. If the head represents a kingdom, then the ten confederation of nations will experience some catastrophic event(s) that will bring it to an apparent collapse [i.e. economic disaster, political upheaval, natural disaster, etc.). The kingdom is miraculously restored and the earth marvels at the beast. If the head represents a person, it can only be the future Antichrist, the leader of this

seventh kingdom. Whether his death is real or fake [13:14; 2 Thess. 2:9] is not clear.

It could be both. Daniel 11 describes a battle that will take place in the last days, where the king of the south and the king of the north push against the Antichrist but fail. It is possible that the antichrist is mortally wounded in this battle but later rises out of the ashes and consolidates his power over the nations.

Whatever the sequence, these catastrophic events set the scene for the Antichrist to assume full power over the confederation of nations [Rev. 17:12-13]. The Antichrist now becomes the leader and mouthpiece of the revived kingdom [Rev. 13:5-6]. His identification with the beast is so closely associated that the kingdom and the Antichrist is viewed as one entity.

The world will choose to worship Satan - [Rev. 13:4].

The people on the earth will believe that Satan will ultimately triumph against God. Satan's remarkable powers are seen in the resurrection of the beast. They will believe a lie [2 Thess. 2:9-12] and will trust Satan for eternal life and power.

They will not only acknowledge him as their rightful king, but they will help Satan in his battle against God. In worshiping Satan, they will also acknowledge and worship the beast – the Antichrist, the human counterpart of Satan and the head spokesman of the revived empire.

The Antichrist will speak great things against the Almighty God [Rev. 13:5-6]. His evil character is shown in his boasting and blasphemy [Dan. 7:8, 11a, 25]. The mouth of the Antichrist is like a roaring lion, and Satan now gives the Antichrist marvelous pronouncements to make to the world. Antichrist's power will only last for 42 months [the second 3 ½ years of the tribulation] "Satan knows his time is short according to Rev. 12:12.

Blasphemy is one of the main features of this satanic kingdom of the Antichrist.

He is both Satan's masterpiece and mouthpiece in uttering the ultimate in unbelief and irreverence to God. The Antichrist blasphemes everything God stands for. He utters obscenities against God's name, His tabernacle, and all those that dwell in heaven [**Rev. 13:6**].

The prophet Daniel spoke of the vile mouth of the Antichrist [Dan. 7:20, 25]. The Antichrist will do according to his will [Dan. 11:36-39]. He will have no respect for any god (whether pagan or the true God) nor will he regard the desire of women (the Messianic hope).

The Antichrist will exalt himself as god and demand allegiance by all. Although empowered by Satan, the Antichrist's "god" will be military power and activity [Dan. 11:38]. He will give rule to those who honor him by dividing the land for gain. The Antichrist will accomplish what other countless rulers of the past only dreamed of – being a world ruler over all nations [Dan. 7:23].

Satan will give the Antichrist the authority over every tribe, peoples, tongues, and nations [**Rev. 13:7**].

"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."

In Rev. 13:9 we find a general exhortation to the entire world "If any man have an ear, let him hear."

This exhortation demands serious attention. If men will worship the beast, they will not be found in the book of life and face an eternity in hell [Rev. 13:8]. Their only hope is that Satan will triumph over Christ and empty hell.

"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." – Rev. 13:10

If men will not worship the beast, they will be persecuted and murdered. There will be no sitting on the fence for the Antichrist will force a decision – neither worship him and receive his mark or deny his worship and die. For this reason, let all men hear. But Who or what will lead them out of this dilemma?

"Here is the patience and the faith of the saints." – v. 10b

The Lord gives encouragement to the saints and a warning to the wicked in **Rev. 13:10**. This is the law of divine retribution. The day of grace is

completely past. Those who persecute the saints and lead them into captivity will ultimately experience the righteous wrath of God [Rev. 14:9-12].