

The Beast From Out Of The Sea

Revelation 13:1-10

Scripture: Revelation 13:1-10

13:1 And he stood on the sand of the seashore.

And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. 2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority. 3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; 4 and they worshiped the dragon, because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?" 5 And there was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. 7 And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. 8 And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain. 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10 If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.

Intro: This morning we resume our study of the parenthetical section encompassing chapters 12–14. As noted last week, this parenthesis introduces us to the Seven Great Personages of the Tribulation. Chapter 12 presented four important personages, and one group of people living at the end times: the woman, Israel; the great red dragon, Satan; the male child, Jesus Christ; the archangel, Michael; and the divinely protected remnant, Israel. Revelation 13 describes the last two personages of the Tribulation as Beasts. The first Beast, described as rising up out of the Sea, is Antichrist (vv. 1-10). This Beast will be the final world ruler, who the dragon, Satan, will empower to rule over the revived Roman Empire, comprised of a ten-nation federation. The second

Beast, described as “rising up from out of the earth,” is the false religious prophet (vv. 11-18). He will cause men to worship the first Beast, Antichrist.

Due to time constraints, we will limit our study this morning to **The Sixth Personage, the Beast Out Of The Sea (Rev. 13:1-10)**.

I. His appearance and identity (vv. 1-2)

1 And he stood on the sand of the seashore. And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. 2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.

1. Appearance of the beast—As is so often the case, there is no chapter break between chapters 12 and 13. Chapter 12 concluded with the dragon, Satan, being cast out of heaven by the archangel Michael. This resulted in his being filled with great wrath, because he realizes that he only has a short time remaining to work his woe (12:12). The dragon is enraged against the woman, Israel, and he goes forth to wage war against her and her children.

Chapter 13 opens with the dragon standing on the sand of the seashore, waiting to empower Antichrist with his power and authority. John watches as the angry dragon, who had been cast down to the earth, stands on the sand of the seashore. John next sees a beast rise up out of the sea having ten horns and seven heads, with 10 crowns, and on his heads were blasphemous names. The reference to the beast rising out of the sea is a reference to his coming forth out of the Gentile nations (Rev. 17:15).

2. Identity of the beast—Since the earliest days of the church suggestions about the identity of the Antichrist have abounded. Roman Emperors such as Nero and Domitian were widely held to be the Antichrist. In later centuries, the Roman Catholic Church itself, and various popes were called Antichrist. Hitler’s Satanic extermination of over six million Jews and nine million Christians resulted in his being identified as the Antichrist. I can recall in our own day that Henry Kissinger was a popular candidate to be the Antichrist. While these and numerous others may resemble the wicked personage called Antichrist, John informs us here in the 13th chapter that the beast rising up out of the sea is the Antichrist.

a. Nationality of the beast—Many hold that Antichrist will be a Jew because of the seven-year covenant he will make with the Jewish nation at the beginning of the Tribulation (Dan. 9:27). Those holding this view insist that the Jews would never make a covenant with a Gentile ruler. Others, myself included, believe Antichrist will be a Gentile, perhaps a Roman. Daniel identifies the Antichrist as coming forth from the people who killed Christ, and destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the sanctuary (Dan. 9:26-27). This was literally fulfilled by the Romans. Antichrist will be a Roman.

b. Power and authority of the beast—In verse 2 the beast is described as combining the features of three preceding empires described by Daniel the prophet: a leopard—Greece, a bear—Medo-Persia, and a lion—Babylon. This final world ruler will incorporate the autocratic authority and strength of Babylon, the brutality employed by the Medo-Persians, and the swift and brilliant conquest realized by Alexander the Great of Greece. As you may recall, Daniel was not able to describe the fourth beast representing the Roman Empire. He described the fourth beast as terrifying and dreadful.

Daniel predicted that the Antichrist will come forth from the fourth kingdom described in his visions in chapters 2 and 7. The fourth Empire is the revived Roman Empire, comprised of a ten-nation federation. The Roman Empire is currently a European Union comprised of 27 countries. However, when the time comes for Antichrist to come to power, God will see to it that the 10 nation confederacy predicted by Daniel the prophet will be in power. The little horn described in Daniel 7 represents the future world ruler that will rise to power by displacing three of the 10 horns comprising the ten-nation federation making up the revived Roman Empire.

According to the final line of verse 2, Antichrist will derive his power and great authority from the dragon, Satan. The Antichrist will actually be indwelt by Satan, and endowed with all of his power and authority. Many good Bible teachers believe that Antichrist is nothing more than Satan's version of Jesus Christ. Just as Christ was God in human flesh, the Antichrist will be Satan in human flesh. I am reminded of the night Judas betrayed Christ. We read in **John 13:27**—“And after [Christ handed Judas] the morsel, *Satan entered into him*. Jesus therefore said to him, ‘What you do, do quickly.’” Just as Satan indwelt Judas and directed him to betray Christ, he will indwell Antichrist and direct him to rage against God, His people, the Jews, and anyone else who rejects him and embraces Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

c. Limitation of the beast—I want to draw your attention to the fact that Antichrist’s power is given to him by God Almighty, who limits his diabolical actions. In verses 4, 5 and 7 we find the reoccurring phrase, “*and there was given to him.*” In the first instance in verse 4 the dragon gives his authority to the beast, Antichrist. In verses 5 and 7 the phrase “and it was given to him,” refers to God’s enabling Antichrist to act, but only for 42 months.

B. His fatal wound healed (v. 3a)

And 3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed.

According to verse 3 Satan will stage Antichrist’s death and resurrection from the dead. This is done to replicate Christ’s death and resurrection from the dead. Notice, John says, *it appeared as if one of his heads had been slain.* Satan is a deceiver, and while he has tremendous power, only God can give and take life. Satan is always portrayed in the Bible as a life-taker, a murderer, and a destroyer.

C. His acclaim and worship (vv. 3b-4)

3 “And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast.”

Satan’s counterfeit resurrection will cause the lost people of the world to be astonished; and they will follow after the beast, and worship the dragon.

According to verse 4 the people of the world will worship the dragon, because they will recognize that *the dragon gave his authority to the beast.* As stated in Isaiah 14:14, Satan’s ultimate goal to receive the worship due to God alone will finally be realized. The people of the world will worship the beast, and acknowledge that there is no one like the beast. They conclude with a question, “who is able to wage war with him?”

The fact is Christ is able to make war with Antichrist, and as we shall see in chapter 19, He defeats him and casts him alive into the eternal lake of fire.

D. His activities include blasphemy and war (vv. 5-7)

1. His blasphemy (vv. 5-6)—*5 And there was given to him* a mouth speaking

arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

Antichrist is given a mouth speaking blasphemous and arrogant words against God and His tabernacle, and the redeemed who dwell in heaven. The extent of his blasphemous activity will last for a period of 42 months, the final 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation.

2. His warfare (v. 7)—***And it was given to him*** to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.

According to verse 7 Antichrist will exercise political domination over the entire world. His authority will be absolute “*over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.*”

Satan has always hated God’s people, and has done everything in his power to persecute and overcome them. Even though God has allowed Satan and his demonic hordes to make war with His people, He has restrained the extent of his diabolical warfare. Without God’s gracious restraint, God’s people would have perished from the earth long ago. During the Tribulation God will allow Satan to make war with the saints and overcome them. “To overcome,” indicates that Antichrist will be allowed to kill some of God’s people, Jews and Gentiles who have accepted Jesus Christ. As Daniel predicted in chapter 7, verse 23 As predicted in Daniel 7:23, Antichrist will “devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it.”

3. His worshipers (v. 8)

In addition to achieving political dominion over all the peoples of the world, Antichrist will also abolish all other religions and demand that everyone worship him alone (2 Thess. 2:4). We read in verse 8 And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain. The Lamb’s book of life” refers to God’s registry, His official record of the names of everyone who would be saved. Those who are saved had their names written in the Lamb’s book of life in eternity past in anticipation of the death of Christ on the cross for them, and they will never be erased.

The Apostle Paul likewise praised God for choosing us in Christ before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4).

E. An exhortation to hear (vv. 9-10)

9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10 If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.

John concludes this section with the familiar exhortation for readers to hear and heed the warnings recorded here. The only possible way for future believers to make it through this horrible time of Satanic persecution is through faith in the Word of God. This is Satan's hour, but it will be short lived. God's people will persevere and triumph in the end. Knowing this and resting in it by faith will give endurance. So here is the assurance that God will bring sure judgment and defeat on the beast, and Satan who empowers him.

Dr. Charles Ryrie writes: "When God's purposes are finished through the beast, God will take him captive and confine him to the [eternal] lake of fire. In the knowledge of this is the patience and faith that sustains the saints who endure these persecutions" (*Revelation*, 84).

Conclusion: The general character of the Tribulation is clearly portrayed in this 13th chapter. It will be a time of slavery, blasphemy, apostasy, and gross satanic activity. Let us thank God that we have the blessed hope of the rapture (2 Thess. 4:13-18). May God help each of us to get involved in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, people's only hope of deliverance from the wrath to come.

Next week we will look at Antichrist religious leader, the beast that rises up out of the earth (Rev. 13:11-18)

Closing prayer:

Closing Song: *Come to Jesus*