

CHAPTER 13

Revelation 13:1–2

[1] 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. [2] 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.

Notes:

This chapter begins with symbols once again. Some are ones that we already know and others are new. We know that the dragon represents Satan and we know that he is confined to earth from the last chapter.

The new story that is being told in chapter 13 centers around the beast. We've heard his name in the past, particularly in chapter 11 where he killed the two witnesses. The beast also appeared in early chapters, but he wasn't called the beast then. Instead, he was riding horses that opened seal judgments.

CHAPTER 13

At that time, he may not have been called the beast because he had not yet taken prominence. But in chapter 13, he is given the name beast. John says that the beast rose out of the sea and that the dragon, Satan gave his power and his throne and great authority to him.

What does it mean that the beast rose out of the sea? If you go back again to the book of Daniel chapter 7, you see Daniel's vision of a beast rising out of the sea. In this case, the beasts rising out of the sea was a reference to Gentile nations. Daniel 7 has an unnamed fourth beast which leads us to believe that this is the final beast that Daniel references.

Jumping back here to Revelation 13, we see that this beast has references to all of Daniel's beasts. This final beast is a reference back to the beasts rising out of the sea in Daniel 7 and this creature is an embodiment of the Age of the Gentiles. This beast is the final ruler before the return of Christ.

Connecting the dots we find that there is a final world ruler who will come to full power at the middle part of the Tribulation. He will be given power by Satan to rule and conquer. He is depicted as a bear, a lion and a leopard because he embodies every part of the Gentile kingdoms that preceded him.

This beast is different from other evil rulers of the past, because he is given power from Satan directly. There is also the question of heads horns and diadems (crowns), but we have to wait a few chapters to really understand the meaning of these symbols.

CHAPTER 13

Revelation 13:3

[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.

Notes:

One of the heads has a mortal wound, but it was healed. Rather than skipping ahead, for now let's just say that this head that was mortally wounded is the Antichrist. We will understand the symbology later on.

We will learn in Revelation 17 that these heads are world leaders and the seventh is the Antichrist himself. It's important to realize the story of the Antichrist that we've talked about over the last couple of chapters.

We know that the Antichrist would rise to power over the first 3.5 years of the Tribulation and come into full power at the mid point. We know that he will rise as a political and military leader who makes an agreement with Israel to allow them to worship at a rebuilt temple once again that kicks off the Tribulation.

CHAPTER 13

We also know that there are ten ruling kings at the beginning of the Tribulation, but he isn't one of them. He rises as this eleventh ruler and he consolidates power through threats of war and military conquest.

At the height of his power, the Antichrist is fatally wounded. It's a head wound that causes him to die, but the fatal wound is healed. The only way for a fatal wound to be healed is for the dead body to return to life. The Antichrist is killed and then resurrected. What kills the Antichrist, we don't know, but we can maybe guess based on the context. We know that three world leaders are removed by the Antichrist, so perhaps these three leaders gather and try to kill the Antichrist. Once he comes back to life, he then wipes them out.

How does this man come back to life? We know that God has the power to bring the dead back to life, but this isn't a work of God. Instead it would appear that through whatever power is granted to the Antichrist, that Satan is granted the ability to bring this man back to life. We can't say for sure how Satan's power is given to the Antichrist, whether through some sort of transfer or him dwelling inside of him, in either case he has power from Satan. So through this act of being raised from the dead, the world's attention turn toward worshiping the Antichrist and in turn Satan.

CHAPTER 13

Revelation 13:4

[4] And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

Notes:

So the world turns their attention to Satan indirectly, and they begin to worship him. They worship Satan behind the scenes. They don't know necessarily that Satan is doing all of this but they end up worshipping him.

What we know from the past weeks is that Satan had control over all of the world leaders. These ten kings, Satan controlled. So by these kings assuming power and trying to kill the Antichrist and by virtue of him being raised from the dead, we see that Satan orchestrated the entire thing.

He sets everything in motion so that he can raise the Antichrist from the dead and set everything in motion.

CHAPTER 13

This is the moment that the Antichrist fully dominates the world scene. And this is partially from where we can see that his name is derived. He is the Antichrist, an imitator. He embodies exactly what Satan always tries to do which is imitate God. But he's a counterfeit.

Paul and Daniel both tell us that the Antichrist would claim to be God and take up a seat in a newly built Jewish temple claiming to be Christ. He exalts himself above every god and speaks blasphemous things. He will claim to be above other religions and make the claim to be the Messiah.

In reality, the Antichrist will worship the god of this world - Satan. He will put an end to all other religions in the world, and will put an end to worship in the Jewish temple. The end of sacrifice at the middle of Tribulation happens because he claims to be god and there is no longer a need for worship in the temple any longer.

And this begins the abomination in the temple. Jesus and Daniel refer to it as the abomination of desolation. So the Antichrist is murdered, but by the power of Satan is resurrected and after he is resurrected, he is worshiped.

He puts an end to the worship in the Jewish temple. The Antichrist is celebrated because he killed the two witnesses in chapter 11 and brought an apparent end to the perceived afflictions on the earth. And because he was resurrected after he was killed.

CHAPTER 13

Revelation 13:5–10

[5] And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. [6] It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. [7] Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, [8] and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. [9] If anyone has an ear, let him hear: [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.

Notes:

CHAPTER 13

As we continue through this chapter, we see the tell-tale sign that we are at the Mid-Tribulation period with the reference to 42 months. And the effects of his power is apparent. He attacks anyone who worships anyone but himself. At the end of chapter 12, Satan goes off to wage war with the unbelieving Jews and believers in Christ. And many of them will be martyred for their faith.

The Antichrist will use the world to go out and conquer those who believe in Christ. Those who know Christ will not bow and thus will be killed. Those who do not know Christ will follow along with the Antichrist, believing him to be god.

The edict is given to worship God and die, or worship the Antichrist and live. John says there is no resisting the captivity of the attacks of the Antichrist. If a saint is to go to captivity, that's where they will go. If they are to be slain, they will be slain.

In other words, there is no resisting what the Antichrist desires to do to the believers in Christ. Most likely, if you are a believer in Christ at this point, you will be killed for your faith. In the next part of this chapter, we are introduced to another character.

CHAPTER 13

Revelation 13:11–14

[11] Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. [12] It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. [13] It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, [14] and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

Notes:

Another beast emerges, but this time from the earth, not the sea. This beast is a combination of a lamb and dragon. A lamb is often used as a picture of Christ in His ministry as the dying prophet sent to be sacrificed.

The dragon means that he speaks for Satan. This man will be a spokesman for the Antichrist, raised up by Satan to be his prophet.

CHAPTER 13

This man is often called the False Prophet of Tribulation meaning that he will exercise the authority of the Antichrist in the Antichrist's presence. He will accompany the Antichrist and perform miraculous signs by the power of Satan.

Satan raises up another man alongside the Antichrist who calls upon the world to worship the Antichrist as god. He performs signs even making fire come down from heaven. But this only in the presence of the Antichrist - this is an indication that they are directly related to the power that the Antichrist is given by Satan because Satan is not omnipresent.

This false prophet commands that an image is constructed of the resurrected Antichrist. And this image, this idol will be setup in the temple to be worshiped. So again, we see Satan being a counterfeit.

Setting up an image to be worshiped. Setting this image up in the Jewish temple. And this image will compel worship in unusual ways.

CHAPTER 13

Revelation 13:15–18

[15] And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. [16] Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, [17] so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. [18] This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

Notes:

CHAPTER 13

The false prophet has the ability to give this image speech. The image can breath and speak and kill those who do not worship the image. This is the abomination of desolation that Daniel references in chapter 12 and Jesus talks about in Matthew 24. This abomination starts with the Antichrist sitting in the mercy seat of the temple, but there is an on-going abomination of desolation that is set up, indicating something is put in place.

This statue is brought to life by some sort of demonic force. The final thing that the false prophet does is command the world to worship the Antichrist through economic means. Every individual who wishes to buy and sell must take a mark on their right hand or foreheads. This is similar to the mark that we read about in Revelation 7 of God sealing the believers.

This mark bears a number that is representative of the Antichrist's name and that number is the number 666. Numbering a name is a uniquely Jewish way of turning a name into a number. They would assign a numerical value to each letter of the Hebrew alphabet, all 22 of the letters. The Hebrew alphabet isn't number 1-22, but rather 1-10 and then by tens from 20 to 100 and finally by hundreds to 400. If you add up an individual's Hebrew name you arrive at a single value.

Whatever the Antichrist's name is in Hebrew when you add up the letters you arrive at 666. 6 in the Bible is representative of fallen/sinful man. And this number is repeated three times. If you remember when we talked about the throne room of God praising God with the words holy, holy, holy, it meant holy to the utmost. The same thing happens here, with then number 6. The Antichrist is being described as the most sinful man.