

## 55. The Book of Revelation—13:1-4

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(9-15-21)

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We are currently in an interlude, a parenthesis—which is really a flashback contained in Chapters 10 thru 14.

Chronologically, we have already seen the 7-Seal Judgments and the 7-Trumpet Judgments which have taken us into the last half of the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel—also known as the Great Tribulation Period.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet (which has technically sounded in Revelation 11:15) is eventually going to introduce us (the world) to the 7-Bowl judgments in Chapter 16.

But the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet has also begun to introduce us to 7 personages.

We've already looked at 5 of them in Chapter 12—

1. *A woman clothed with the sun (12:1-2)*
2. *The red dragon with seven heads and 10 horns (12:3-4)*
3. *The male Child (12:5-6)*
4. *The archangel Michael, casting Satan out of heaven (12:7-12)*
5. *The offspring of the woman, persecuted by the dragon (12:13-17)*

And now in Chapter 13 we are going to be introduced to the last two—two coming world leaders, one political and the other religious. There are 33 titles in the Old Testament and 13 in the New Testament that are used for these two coming leaders.

The name that most of us use to refer to the political leader who will unite the world in a one world government is—the 'Antichrist.'

The word '*anti*' in the Greek can mean '*against*' or '*opposed to*'—but it can also mean '*in the place of*'—which I believe is the correct interpretation. The Antichrist isn't going to be against or opposed to the concept of a Christ (in other words, he won't be anti-religious)—he will set himself up as the ultimate replacement for Jesus, the true Christ!

### **Mark 13:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup>For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am *He*,' and will deceive many.

### **Mark 13:21-22 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup>Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here *is* the Christ!' or, 'Look, *He is* there!' do not believe it. <sup>22</sup>For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Many atheists and secularists have always believed that the more our understanding of science, medicine, and technology increased—the more secular society would become until religion would disappear from the earth altogether as mankind became more and more *‘enlightened’*.

It’s interesting that the Bible predicts just the opposite will be true.

At the time the Antichrist makes his appearance on the world stage—secularism won’t be the dominant ideology of mankind—but rather there will be a great spiritual awakening taking place.

However, it won’t be an awakening from the Holy Spirit—it will be a great occult spiritual awakening. (Explain)

**Revelation 13:1 (NKJV)**

**<sup>1</sup>Then I stood on the sand of the sea....**

Some of the manuscripts say, **“Then he (the dragon, Satan) stood on the sand of the sea...”**

Chapter 13 is a continuation of Chapter 12—

**Revelation 12:17-13:1 (NKJV)**

**<sup>17</sup>And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. <sup>1</sup>Then he stood (the dragon, Satan) on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.**

This is all connected—the war in heaven where Satan is cast out of heaven and thrown down to the earth having great wrath knowing that his time is short, and his main goal will be to persecute Israel and the followers of Jesus Christ both Jew and Gentile.

His plan is to *‘incarnate himself’* into this earthly leader who we call the Antichrist, who up until now has been *“a man of peace”* (a great political leader) working with the nations of the earth to bring about global peace and prosperity.

Now however, this man becomes a military tyrant—think of Hitler, Stalin, Mao Zedong, and Napoleon—all rolled into one!

The turning point that causes the Antichrist to show his true colors and allows Satan to enter into him is an event that happens around the midpoint of the final 7 years that is so monumental it is mentioned three times in this Chapter!

**Revelation 13:1 (NKJV)**

**<sup>1</sup>Then he stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea...**

The Greek word for **‘beast’** here is *‘therion’* and is used to describe the Antichrist—here and in Revelation 11:7. It is a word that does not refer to a domesticated animal—but to a wild, savage, ravenous beast of prey.

Now, please understand that the **beast** must be understood as representing both a kingdom and a person—and we have to pay close attention to when the passage is talking about the **beast** as *the world government*, and when it’s talking about the **beast** as *a man* (the Antichrist).

The reason is because Scripture views the final world empire as inseparable from its leader—much as Hitler was seen as being inseparable from the Third Reich.

**Revelation 13:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then he stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea...

This could be a reference to the Mediterranean Sea signifying that this leader comes from the Mediterranean world i.e., the old or historic Roman Empire.

However, in the Scriptures the nations are often likened to the sea—or in other words, the sea is used as an idiom for the nations:

**Isaiah 17:12 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> Woe to the multitude of many people *Who* make a noise like the roar of the seas, And to the rushing of nations *That* make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!

**Isaiah 57:20 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> But the wicked *are* like the troubled sea, When it cannot rest, Whose waters cast up mire and dirt.

**Revelation 17:15 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

So, it could be that this world leader will come from the nations (United Nations?) causing many scholars to believe he will be a Gentile.

**Revelation 13:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then he stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns...

Revelation 17 tells us that the **seven heads** represent *seven mountains* which symbolize *seven world empires*—which have run their course throughout world history under the control of Satan, the god of this world.

Six of these world empires were contiguous and followed in this order—Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.

The seventh and final world empire ruled by the Antichrist, will be a ten-nation confederacy or ten geo-political region confederacy. (Daniel 2:40-43)

The **ten horns** represent the '*ten kings*' or rulers of these ten world regions who will rule under Antichrist which is why the crowns (diadems-the crowns of kings) are on the horns.

**Revelation 13:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then he stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

**Daniel 11:36-37 (NKJV)**

<sup>36</sup> "Then the king [the Antichrist] shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. <sup>37</sup> He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above *them* all.

This is why he (Antichrist) has a blasphemous name on his heads (Revelation 13:1)—it's because he engages in the ultimate blasphemy—declaring himself to be God!

**Revelation 13:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet of a bear*, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion...

**Daniel 7:2-8, 15-25 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. <sup>3</sup> And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. <sup>4</sup> The first *was* like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it. <sup>5</sup> And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and *had* three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!' <sup>6</sup> After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. <sup>7</sup> After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It *was* different from all the beasts that *were* before it, and it had ten horns. <sup>8</sup> I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, *were* eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words...*[then the vision is interpreted for Daniel]*—

<sup>15</sup> "I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within *my* body, and the visions of my head troubled me. <sup>16</sup> I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: <sup>17</sup> 'Those great beasts, which are four, *are* four kings *which* arise out of the earth. <sup>18</sup> But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.' <sup>19</sup> Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, *with* its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, *which* devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; <sup>20</sup> and the ten horns that *were* on its head, and the other *horn* which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance *was* greater than his fellows. <sup>21</sup> I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them *[this cannot be talking about Church Saints since Jesus promised that against His Church the gates of hell would not prevail—this is obviously talking about Tribulation Saints]*, <sup>22</sup> until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made *in favor* of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. <sup>23</sup> "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all *other* kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth *[a global kingdom is in view]*, Trample it and break it in pieces. <sup>24</sup> The ten horns *are* ten kings *Who* shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first *ones*, And shall subdue three kings. <sup>25</sup> He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time *[3 ½ years]*.

John is seeing much the same thing that Daniel saw—except John really only sees the final kingdom—and he says:

**Revelation 13:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> Now the beast [here it means the kingdom not the person] which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion...

So, this final kingdom, as John sees it, is going to have some of the characteristics of the other preceding kingdoms—it will be an amalgamation of the first three if you will.

The idiom of the **leopard, bear, and lion** found in Daniel's vision of the first three kingdoms—dramatically emphasize the characteristics of the nations they represent.

One author—

*“The **lion** was a fitting symbol for the fierce, consuming power of the Babylonian Empire. The ferocity, strength, and stability of the Medo-Persian Empire led to its depiction as a **bear**. The Greeks' swift conquests, particularly under the mercurial Alexander the Great, reflect the speed and viciousness of the **leopard**.”*

John lists the three animals in reverse order from Daniel—since he was looking backward in time. Daniel, looking forward in time, listed the animals and the kingdoms they represent in chronological order.

One author said—

*“Like the indescribable fourth beast of Daniel 7:7, which represents the Roman Empire—Antichrist's final empire will be a composite of all the empires that have gone before it. It will incorporate all the ferocity, viciousness, swiftness, and strength of the other world empires.”*

This powerful empire, unparalleled in human history, will be Satan's last and greatest attempt to stop the reign of Christ—but, like all Satan's other attempts to thwart God's purposes—it will ultimately fail.

**Revelation 13:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> Now the beast [kingdom] which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. **The dragon gave him [Antichrist] his power, his throne, and great authority.**

This guy will be Satan's masterpiece, who empowers him which means he will have supernatural charisma, genius and oratorical abilities—not to mention supernatural powers (2 Thessalonians 2:9).

**Revelation 13:3 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed...

The interpretation of that phrase has been much debated—because what is John referring to when he talks about one of the heads of the beast—is he talking about the *kingdom beast* or the *man beast*?

Some commentators argue that the **head** whose fatal wound was healed—is talking about a kingdom that came to power, died (was destroyed) and eventually restored (resurrected).

They see the *death* and *resurrection* miracle of this '**head**' as the restoration or resurrection of the old Roman Empire. Antichrist, they believe, will unite the countries occupying the territory of the old Roman Empire into a new empire.

That revival of power will so amaze the rest of the nations that they will also submit to his rule.

There are several difficulties with that view—the most obvious problem is that while verse 3 speaks of “**one of the heads being mortally wounded**”—other passages specify that the beast himself is slain (13:12, 14; 17:8, 11).

Many commentators believe that someone is going to try to assassinate the Antichrist. (Zechariah 11:17)

I personally don't believe he is really going to be dead—because I don't believe the devil has the power to raise the dead.

However, it isn't going to matter because Satan will present such a convincing *counterfeit* death and resurrection that—the whole world will believe it was genuine. In fact, it will be such a powerful testimony to the world of this man's godlike attributes and power—the fact that his deadly wound was healed!—that from this point on this event becomes what defines him!

So that we the readers don't downplay its importance—it's mentioned three times in this Chapter and becomes the thing that the world identifies him with.

That he has the power over life and death—he can't be killed! He must be a god because he has the power to 'resurrect' or 'regenerate' himself after he is killed!

What a counterfeit of the Lord Jesus Christ Who said—*"No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again..."* (John 10:18)

**Revelation 13:3 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup>And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. **And all the world marveled and followed the beast.**

This becomes a 'game-changer' for the Antichrist's followers, who up until this point were enamored with this man—but now move into full blown worship of him as a god!

**Revelation 13:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup>**So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast...**

So, Satan will finally get what he's always wanted—to be worshipped as God.

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