

REVELATION CHAPTER 13

The Beast and the False Prophet

Vs 1-2 The Beast who comes up out of the sea

This passage involves both a Revived Roman Empire which rises to worldwide dominion and an evil individual who takes over the leadership of that world power, exercising total satanic power in carrying out his leadership.

Rev 17:8-13

Some versions put the first statement of Rev 13:1 as part of the last verse in chapter 12.

Wherever placed, we find the dragon (Satan) standing on the shoreline of the sea, which represents his one-world empire – 1 Jn 5:19; Rev 11:15, awaiting the emergence of his “son” who will carry out his (devil’s) heart’s desire.

NOTE: Problem with the translation: Some manuscripts read “I stood”, while others read, “He stood”:

1. John stood on the seashore (more probable reading) ---OR---
2. The beast stood on the seashore

There is no significant difference in the two.

(Some of your Bibles will say the one, while the rest will say the other.)

Verse one describes the Revived Roman Empire, which will be established before the beast takes control of it.

Verse two is a description of the ultimate leader of this empire: anti-christ.

Dan 7:7-8,19-25 makes this same distinction.

In Rev 12:3, the dragon who is behind the human leader is presented as the real force.

In Rev 17:3,7 this world-system’s connection with false Christianity is described.

In Rev 13, the world ruler has already taken control of this final phase of Satan’s kingdom.

Ten horns wearing ten diadems, seven heads with

blasphemous names, combining the most significant characteristics of the previous forms of the world government.

1. leopard – Alexandrian Empire: swift It’s world-wide consolidation will take less than a life-time.
2. bear – Medo-Persian: strength and tenacity

3. lion – Babylon: majesty and power
4. Satan has been freed by God to finish that which God created him to do.

NOTE: When described in Rev 17:10-12, there appears to be both a consecutive progression of these rulers and a simultaneous reigning of them.

This difference might be resolved by regarding the heads as successive, referring to kings or emperors, and the horns as kings who will reign simultaneously, receiving their power from the beast (empire, not individual), in both its historic and prophetic characters.

Vs 3

Again Two Possibilities: One of his heads....healed

1. If the head comes out of the consecutive progression, then the Roman Empire which appears to have died will come back to life in all its glory, amazing the world and causing them to come under its influence.
(Much the way the USA has developed, even more so... if the EU continues and consolidates, it could ultimately Become the fulfillment!)
2. If the last world ruler – anti-christ – is meant, then he will recover from a deadly wound which will magnify him as “the” world ruler of choice.

In either case, the revival of the future empire and its final ruler is a miracle and a demonstration of the power of Satan.

Vs 4

The final form of apostasy – 2 Thes 2:3 – is not simply the worship of an idol but the worship of Satan himself. The beast is Satan’s substitute for Christ. Phil3:3

NOTE what impresses the world about the beast!
Who is able to “wage war with him”?!

Love, humility, etc. are not characteristics which impress the world; power is!

The world situation that requires a world leader, coupled with his ability to rule it, helps make him an awesome human from the world’s perspective.

Vs 5-6 This final world ruler will be filled with both boasting and blasphemy. Dan 7:8,11,25
He comes into power before the Tribulation begins, being able to make a covenant with Israel for 7 years.
He receives permission – Job 1 & 2 – to act out his real person half way through the Tribulation – Mt 24:15-22

Speaking blasphemies is central to his being and his ruling.
His hatred of God, His Christ, and His followers is what makes him tick.. Dan 11:36-45

Believers have not been invited to reign upon this earth, they have been asked to “meet Him outside the gate.”
Heb 13:12-14; 1 Jn 2:15-17; Jn 3:19-20

Vs 7 World-wide domination, the dream of countless rulers, is finally achieved.
Dan 7:23,25; 9:27; 12:10; Rev 7:9-17

Vs 8 All the world, except the saints, will worship him.
The Lamb’s Book of Life: Rev 17:8; 20:12-15; 21:27; Lk 10:20; Phil 4:3

“From the Foundation of the world”
Eph 1:4

The ecumenical movement will be successful!

Vs 9-10 Exhortation to hear Rev 1:3

NOTE: “If anyone has an ear, let him hear” is not followed by the phrase “what the Spirit says to the churches”. This is another indication that the church is not present – thus – Pre-Tribulation Rapture!

There is nothing that can stop the outworking of God’s plan.
Eph 1:11

God’s plan for His children is not written the way the children would have written it.

Rev 14:12-13; 17:6

There are also children of wrath prepared for destruction.

Rom 9:21-24; Rev 14:15-20

God's will is being done even as Satan carries out his own plan.

"Here is the perseverance" – Rev 14:9-13 – God has judged those who have persecuted us.

Vs 11-18

The Second Beast – The False Prophet Rev 19:20

Vs 11-12

John now sees another beast coming up out of the earth,

Occupying a secondary role, supporting the first beast.

"Another beast" – another of the same kind – nature, character, power, etc.

He comes up out of the earth. 1 Sam 28:13

Though he is the same, he is different. He is the religious, (ecclesiastical) side of the unit, while the first beast is the political power.

1. He makes those who dwell on the earth to worship the beast.

Vs 12

2. He makes an image of the first beast, performs miracles, and causes everyone to worship the image.

Vs 13-15

3. He causes everyone to receive the mark of the beast.

Vs 16-18

He has Two Horns like a lamb, looking like a religious character, yet what

he

has to say better reflects what Satan would be saying.

He is active on behalf of the first beast, exercising the authority of the

first

beast in his presence.

He prepares the world so that it will worship the first beast as God, when he proclaims himself as such.

2 Thes 2:4

In Rev 17:16 with Rev 19:2, Religious Babylon is destroyed by the beast (anti-christ), prior to the Return of Christ.

If the false prophet heads up that final ecclesiastical unit, then possibly, the anti-christ will participate in the false prophet's destruction.

Vs 13-14

He makes fire come out of Heaven.

Acts 2:3; 2 Kgs 1:10-12; Rev 11:5

Satan has the power to duplicate many of God's miracles.

Ex 7:11, 22; 8:7

There comes a limit where even Satan drops behind when up against God.

Ex 8:18-19

All that the false prophet does is called "deception."

The wound of the sword and the coming back to life is mentioned for the third time in this chapter. This must be the event that becomes the basis for all that the first beast says and does.

He next tells the world to make an image of the beast.

Dan 3:1ff

This image is referred to 7 more times in the Book of Revelation.

14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4

The image becomes the capstone of idolatry in Satan's kingdom.

Vs 15-17

The false prophet causes the image to "breathe and speak".

Demonic possession results in a person speaking with the demon's voice.

What the false prophet does is not as important as the response of the world to what it sees done.

The means to buy and sell now comes into play. The false prophet causes all who would survive to receive the mark of the anti-christ.

It appears that receiving the mark signifies that the person has worshipped the image. If you worship, you receive the mark. If you don't worship, you die.

The mark of the beast, his name or his number, serves as a Necessary identification to conduct business and to purchase the Necessities of life.

Thought of another way it becomes another device to Force all people to worship the beast.

Vs 18

The number of the beast – 666

QUESTION: Is there any indication that either the anti-christ or the false prophet are Jewish.