



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Chapter 13

- **And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then 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 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 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 There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.**

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- **Just to summarize the previous lesson –**
 - **The beast needs to be understood as both a person and a system.**
 - **The beast, as a person, and the Antichrist are one.**
 - **The world is now, and actually has been for awhile, ready for a “super hero” with all the answers to emerge and lead.**
 - **This is Satan’s plan and it involves a man of his choosing to be his agent of destruction.**

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- **1 And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then 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.**
- **The beast that comes up out of the sea is a man (Rev 13:18) who is possessed by a very powerful demon from the abyss.**
- **His kingdom has ten horns and seven heads? My best guess today, regarding the ten horns, is perhaps the globalist's vision of a 10 region economic alignment of the world's economies.**

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- The beast, as a person, is actually a false messiah, and that should not take us by surprise if we know our bibles.
- Mark 13:5 Jesus replied, “Don’t let anyone mislead you, 6 for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah.’ They will deceive many.
- Daniel 8:25 He will be a master of deception and will become arrogant; he will destroy many without warning. He will even take on the Prince of princes in battle, but he will be broken, though not by human power.

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- **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.
- **Dan 7:2** **2** In my vision that night, I, Daniel, saw a great storm churning the surface of a great sea, with strong winds blowing from every direction. **3** Then four huge beasts came up out of the water, each different from the others. **4** The first beast was like a lion with eagles' wings. As I watched, its wings were pulled off, and it was left standing with its two hind feet on the ground, like a human being. And it was given a human mind. **5** Then I saw a second beast, and it looked like a bear. It was rearing up on one side, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And I heard a voice saying to it, "Get up! Devour the flesh of many people!" **6** Then the third of these strange beasts appeared, and it looked like a leopard. It had four bird's wings on its back, and it had four heads. Great authority was given to this beast. **7** Then in my vision that night, I saw a fourth beast—terrifying, dreadful, and very strong. It devoured and crushed its victims with huge iron teeth and trampled their remains beneath its feet. It was different from any of the other beasts, and it had ten horns.

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- **Daniel is seeing a vision of the next 4 great empires of the world and he associates the first 3 with different animals that were known to him.**
- **A lion, a bear, and a leopard – all fierce, all predators, and all to be feared for their power.**
- **But when he describes the 4th empire, he ceases with the animal analogies and switches to words more descriptive of a robotic machine with iron teeth, with 10 horns, and an ability to crush it's enemies with its feet.**

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- **When John describes the beast he sees in Rev 13, he attributes all of the imagery of Daniel's first 3 empires with the beast that he sees.**
- **He also says that the dragon “gave him his power, and his throne, and great authority” – the gloves come off, God's angels stand aside, and this beast is going to have his way with the world for a season.**
- **During the Great Tribulation, the second half, God is going to allow Satan and his forces to run wild with all of his schemes for a time, times, and half a time.**

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- **2nd Thes 2:1** Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, 2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. 5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? 6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. 8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

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- **So Paul tells us that the reason Satan had not yet acted to try his final overthrow of God in his day was because God simply would not allow it.**
- **God always has a plan, and always has a timetable that is perfect for His purposes.**
- **As powerful as Satan is, he is unable to do anything that God does not permit.**

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- **So Daniel described 4 coming world empires and we now know them to be Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.**
- **John sees one empire in his vision that has all of the qualities of Babylon (lion-like fierceness), Medo-Persia (bear-like power), and Greece (leopard-like swiftness) in one empire.**
- **We can say with certainty that the beast's empire is vicious, powerful, and deadly to all in its path.**

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- **3 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;**
- **The popular line of thinking is that one of the 10 “heads” suffers a fatal head wound, and this same person rises from the dead, is immediately embraced as a superman, and leads the world.**
- **While anything is possible, the verse reads, “as if it had been slain”, leaving room for the possibility that his death is a fake, and his resurrection is a stage production.**

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- **2nd Thes 2:8** Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. 11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.
- I do not believe the devil has the power to resurrect someone – I think it is far more likely that any resurrection of the beast is a deception. (the affect is the same because people believe it)

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- 4 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?*”
- But all of these praises for the beast are false.
- Isaiah 45:5a I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me
- Isaiah 45:6b I am the Lord, and there is none else.
- Isaiah 45:18b I am the Lord; and there is none else.
- Isaiah 45:22b for I am God, and there is none else.

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- **When it is believed that the beast has been resurrected, the dragon (Satan) and the beast are both worshipped by the world.**
- **The thinking probably goes like this – if the beast has already been resurrected once, then it can happen again and again, therefore he is indestructible and undefeatable.**
- **Oh, and by the way, this “resurrection” of one of the heads of the beast is also what gives some evidence that the final end-time confederacy is a “revived” (resurrected) Roman empire.**

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- And, of course, since Satan craves worship, and has for a long time wanted to be like the Most High, he will do everything he can to encourage the worship of himself.
- 2nd Thes 2:3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.
- Satan is a liar and a deceiver – he just does not change, ever!

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- And a little preview of next week's lesson – there is a another “beast” that comes up out of the earth whose job it is to see to it that the first beast is worshipped. (can you say, “unholy Trinity”)
- Rev 13: 11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. 12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.

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- **5 There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.**
- **How interesting it is that the beast is “given” a mouth to speak arrogant words and blasphemies – clearly the One who gives him that freedom is God.**
- **The reason I believe the giver is God is that there is no way that Satan would ever limit the beast’s reign to just 42 months if he had the freedom to give such power.**

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- **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 It was also 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 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.**

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- 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.
- He is left unchecked to speak blasphemy against God and His sacred things and people.
- 988 blasphemía (from blax, "sluggish/slow," and 5345 /phémē, "reputation, fame") – blasphemy – literally, slow (sluggish) to call something good (that really is good) – and slow to identify what is truly bad (that really is evil).

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- **To blaspheme is to speak with contempt about God or to be defiantly irreverent. According to Black's Law Dictionary, blasphemy is “the written or oral reproach of God, His name, attributes, or religion.” This is similar to slander, which is “malicious oral lies that harm a reputation,” and libel, which is “slander through writing or another type of recording or transmission.” Blasphemy is slander and libel directed at God. (from gotquestions.org)**
- **Among Satan’s many goals against God, one is to try to diminish Him, and try to defame Him – he can’t actually accomplish either one, but to the extent that people believe his lies, you could say he has had some significant success.**

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- **7 It was also 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.**
- **As is noted in verses #5, #6, and #7, God has given the beast wide latitude to act as though he really is a god – the time is limited, but oh what harm and destruction he will accomplish during his short reign.**
- **John 10:10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.**

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- 8 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 NASB is the only translation that I know of that differs in how verse #8 is translated into English.
- All others (NKJV, KJV, NIV, and NLT) have wording similar to “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” To me, it is important enough to take exception to.

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- NIV Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, *the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.*
- NKJV Rev 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of *the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*
- NLT Rev 13:8 And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast. They are the ones whose names were not written in the Book of Life that belongs to *the Lamb who was slaughtered before the world was made.*

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- **What makes this such an important distinction is the whole timing of the sacrifice Jesus offered on the cross.**
- **Yes, we know when it happened in history, but what is more important is that, in the mind of God, because He decreed it to happen, it was a good as done when decreed as it was when it was done in time.**
- **This helps us to understand why Abraham, Moses, David, and Daniel were all saved the same way we are - by grace through faith.**

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- **Verse #8 also says, “All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life.”**
- **All non-Christians will fall in line and worship the beast - everyone, no exceptions, no atheists, no agnostics, everyone, except for Christians.**
- **They will need to worship the beast and take his mark, which we will talk about next week, in order to give themselves even a chance to survive in the kingdom of the beast.**

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- **9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.**
- **Seven times in the letters to the churches in chapters 2 & 3, we read this same phrase, but in each of those there was an extra phrase, “what the Spirit is saying to the churches”.**
- **That second phrase about the “churches” is conspicuous by its absence – more evidence that the rapture is pre-tribulational, or at least mid-tribulational.**

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- **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.**
- **Now we have some tough language to navigate – it sounds as though John is saying, “resistance is futile, this is all part of God’s plan, and you should accept it come what may, and trust God.”**
- **And I think that is exactly what he is saying – “Phil 1:21 For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.”**

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- **Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints?**
- **Yes, we believe that we are indestructible for as long as the Lord wants us to live, but not one minute longer.**
- **We believe, or at least we should believe, that God's will for us is the best of all possible paths through life, and when that path leads us through the valley of the shadow of death, we will not fear, but we will trust Him with whatever happens.**

Questions