

And I stood upon the sand of the sea; and I saw a beast rising out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and upon its horns ten diadems, and upon its heads names of blasphemy. Rev 13:1

This Lesson Outline was prepared by John M. Wharton August 30, 2005

Sources -

All bible text, unless otherwise indicated, is the Darby Translation. ASV indicates the American Standard Version, with KJV indicating the King James Version. Quotations are often included from various classic Christian commentaries such as John Gill's Expositor, Jamieson, Fausset and Brown, Robertson's New Testament Word Pictures, and others. Greek and Hebrew word definitions are often included from the Strong's Concordance, unless otherwise indicated. All of these sources, both the bible texts, commentaries, and Strong's definition's are taken from the excellent source the e-Sword Bible computer program unless otherwise indicated.

Introduction -

We see in chapter 13 the rising from the seas of the peoples of the earth a beast with ten horns of power and seven heads of authority. The beast is described as like a leopard in general but with the mouth of a lion and the feet of a bear. Satan, the dragon of old, will give it its power and authority. One of these heads of authority seemed to have been slain in the past before John's time. But it seems to revive and show its pattern of rule once again on this earth. The world is amazed and willingly follows this beastly ruler as a god worshiping him. He is given the power to this rule for a space of 42 months or 3 ½ years, a pattern we have seen in other prophecies.

Lesson Text - Revelation Chapter 13

Rev 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea; and I saw a beast rising out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and upon its horns ten diadems, and upon its heads names of blasphemy.

Rev 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like to a leopardess, and its feet as of a bear, and its mouth as a lion's mouth; and the dragon gave to it his power, and his throne, and great authority;

Comments on vs. 1-2 a little overview of tie-ins between Daniel and the Revelation-

In reading the rest of the chapter it can be seen that this beast is a man coming from an area that has had a succession of ancient kingdoms of this earth which have ruled over and mistreated Israel. The symbols that the beast is made up from (a lion, bear and leopard) put one in mind of the very symbolic images used by Daniel in his chapter 7 to describe the last four of these great evil empires that assaulted and dominated Israel and later even Judah. We know from Daniel's chapter 10 that those kingdoms were ruled from behind the scenes by powerful demonic forces. One example is the *prince* of Persia who hindered the angel from bringing a message of revelation to Daniel in chapter 8 of his book.

Dan 10:13 *But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.*

Michael, one of the chief princes archangel Michael who has come to the aid of this angel is also called a **prince** just as is the prince of Persia, both using the same ancient word (H8269 *sar* From H8323; a head person...) according to the Strong's Concordance in the excellent Bible Program e-Sword. That makes sense because we know that a man could not have hindered one of these incredibly powerful beings. These beings influence and to degrees control the human leaders of the powerful kingdoms. Perhaps that's reflected in the seven heads of the beast John saw. The heads might represent the reasoning power of the ancient kingdoms. As to what kingdoms these seven heads can possibly be (when Daniel in his chapters 2 and 7 only mentioned four) we may consider which of the ancient powers actually controlled the land and people of Israel during their history. The first was Egypt which held them in bondage for a time before God led them out using Moses as recorded in the book of Exodus. The next such conquest was many years later after the breakup of the kingdom of Israel into the kingdoms of Israel in the northern area and Judah in the southern part of the territory. The conqueror was Assyria which led the northern kingdom of Israel into captivity along with much of the countryside in Judah to the south. The third was the Babylonian kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar which finished off the remainder of the kingdom of Judah and Jerusalem after having vanquished Assyria and many other political entities in the region. Next was the Medo-Persian combine which conquered Babylon and gained all of its territories. Some of the children of Judah were allowed to return to Judah to rebuild the temple and city walls under the Persian kings but the people were still fully under the control of Persia. After that Greece, the fifth empire, conquered Persia and held the area including Israel. Israel did eventually gain significant freedom and concessions from Antiochus Epiphanies of the later Seleucid Syrian Greek kingdom. Eventually the growing Roman Empire gained all of the area of Greece and much in Europe. This is the situation at the time that John saw and wrote this Revelation for the church. That is six ancient kingdoms. Judah eventually lost all control of their land and even the right for most of them to live in it under the grinding down of the Roman power after 70 AD and afterward. Rome did eventually fall to various of the growing early European peoples such as the Goths and other Germanic tribes. That leaves one last demonic earthly kingdom to again control the region including Israel. That last seventh kingdom is the one ruled by the beastly little horn of Daniel's chapter 7 prophecies.

Dan 7:23 *He said thus: The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom upon the earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.*

Dan 7:24 *And as to the ten horns, out of this kingdom shall arise ten kings; and another shall arise after them; and he shall be different from the former, and he shall subdue three kings.*

Daniel saw Rome as the fourth in a series of four empires that had controlled the kingdom of Judah which he was from. These were first Babylon, as mentioned above, then Medo-Persia, next Greece and finally the fourth, the iron like kingdom of Rome. He specifically said in vs. 7:24 that ten horns or smaller kingdoms would grow out of some portion or other of the last great empire Rome.

And the beast which I saw was like to a leopard not say that Rome the ancient empire would still exist and be this last beastly kingdom John is seeing in the Revelation. In fact the basic nature of the body of this beast is a leopard which represented Alexander's Grecian Empire in Daniel's prophecies in Dan 7.

and its feet as of a bear, since the beastly little horn kingdom that John saw is here described by Daniel as growing from out of the area of these ten kingdoms before it, and since we know that

this little horn is from the area of the Medo-Persian empire, the bear of Daniel's visions, and will negotiate a peace accord with Israel for a time, we can surmise that all ten of these horns are regional powers probably in the middle east and very close geographically to the land of Israel. *and its mouth as a lion's mouth* the regal lion of ancient Babylon which was Satan's counterfeit to God's Lion of the Tribe of Judah. This beastly little horn will speak with the inspiration of old Babylon and its system of religious works.

We know that the Messiah, Jesus Christ, was cut off on the cross in 33 AD and Rome was in power at that time. We also know that the prince of Rome did come and destroy Jerusalem in 70 AD not that long after the rejection of the Messiah by Judah. Daniel described this in the prophecy in chapter 9 of his book. At that time the Roman army did destroy Jerusalem and the Temple completely. There have not been sacrifices offered there since that time.

Dan 9:25 Know therefore and understand: From the going forth of the word to restore and to build Jerusalem unto Messiah, the Prince, are seven weeks, and sixty-two weeks. The street and the moat shall be built again, even in troublous times.

Dan 9:26 And after the sixty-two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, and shall have nothing; and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with an overflow, and unto the end, war, --the desolations determined.

Dan 9:27 And he shall confirm a covenant with the many for one week; and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and because of the protection of abominations there shall be a desolator, even until that the consumption and what is determined shall be poured out upon the desolate.

But vs. 9:27 speaks about a ruler seeming to come from the previous destroying power in some manner who shall then negotiate a peace accord with Israel which he will then break halfway through, invading Israel, stopping the sacrifices and desecrating the Temple. As said above, there has been no new temple built in Jerusalem or sacrifices offered in it since that destruction in 70 AD. So this must still take place at some time yet future when Israel again has built a temple and started offering sacrifices to Jehovah God. And this future ruler who makes a treaty with Israel and then breaks it and invades is described by Daniel in vs. 7:27 as though he were a direct continuation of the ancient Roman Empire even though we can see he is still future to our time. This little 7 who will start out small and then overcome three adjacent kingdoms and grow to prominence from that, is an outgrowth of some portion of the area of the old Roman Empire. But he is also, as intimated in Daniel 7:23-24 above, a local ruler that has grown out of an area already containing ten kingdoms. He must also be from the portion of the Roman Empire that was originally in the older Medo-Persian Empire which is shown by his feet of a bear showing where he is standing in relation to these ancient empires. The manner in which he makes such easy peace with Israel, probably guaranteeing their safety from the other Islamic countries in the area and their freedom to continue with their sacrifices in the newly constructed temple, gives the impression that he is in the Middle East also, near Israel.

Rev 13:3 and one of his heads *was* as slain to death, and his wound of death had been healed: and the whole earth wondered after the beast.

Comments -

One of these ancient demonic powers will have seemed to be cut off unexpectedly short perhaps. But it will be allowed to take power again this time over this last revival of the old Satanic pattern of world Empires. Perhaps this pattern and similarity will seem apparent enough that mankind will be amazed at it's revival. In any respect, mankind will be awed by this last presentation of Satan's pattern and will follow the beastly little horn.

Rev 13:4 And they did homage to the dragon, because he gave the authority to the

beast; and they did homage to the beast, saying, Who *is* like to the beast? and who can make war with it?

Rev 13:5 And there was given to it a mouth, speaking great things and blasphemies; and there was given to it authority to pursue its career forty-two months.

Rev 13:6 And it opened its mouth for blasphemies against God, to blaspheme his name and his tabernacle, and those who have their tabernacle in the heaven.

Rev 13:7 And there was given to it to make war with the saints, and to overcome them; and there was given to it authority over every tribe, and people, and tongue, and nation;

Comments –

The forty two months (or three and one half years) –

there was given to it authority to pursue its career forty-two months two months. Three years is 36 months and 6 more is 42 months. The period is 3 ½ years. It's the same period of time that Daniel saw the little horn rule after he had invaded Israel and began to change their times and law which is the calendar of times of God's Holidays and probably also the Sabbath.

Dan. 7:8 I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots: and behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Dan. 7:24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom shall ten kings arise: and another shall arise after them; and he shall be diverse from the former, and he shall put down three kings.

Dan. 7:25 He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High; and he shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time.

Dan. 8:24 His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper and do his pleasure; and he shall destroy the mighty ones and the holy people.

John mentions that this beast will blaspheme against the true God in heaven, and will defeat the saints of God. These saints cannot be those who become Christian believers after the translation of the church to heaven has occurred and the Tribulation has started. Those believers are described in Revelation chapters 6 and 7 as being martyred early in the Great Tribulation.

The Christian Martyrs of Revelation chapters 6 and 7 –

Rev. 6:9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been killed for the Word of God, and for the testimony of the Lamb which they had.

Rev. 6:10 They cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, Master, the holy and true, until you judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

*Rev. 6:11 A long white robe was given to each of them. **They were told that they should rest yet for a while, until their fellow servants and their who would also be killed even as they were, should complete their course.***

*Rev. 7:9 After these things I looked, and **behold, a great multitude, which no man could number, out of every nation and of all tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.***

*Rev. 7:10 They cried with a loud voice, saying, “**Salvation be to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!**”*

*Rev. 7:13 One of the elders answered, saying to me, “**These who are arrayed in white robes, who are they, and from where did they come?**”*

Rev. 7:14 I told him, “My lord, you know.”

*He said to me, “**These are those who came out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes, and made them white in the Lamb’s blood.***

The 144,000 from all 12 tribes of Israel and the saints at large of the kingdom of Israel

But separate from those Christian Martyrs is the 144,000 men from all 12 tribes of Israel, all mentioned as bond servants of God. These are referred to in the first part of Rev. 7 and (it seems) again in Rev. 14:1,4.

Rev. 7:2 I saw another angel ascend from the sunrise, having the seal of the living God. He cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was given to harm the earth and the sea,

*Rev. 7:3 saying, “**Don’t harm the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, until we have sealed the bondservants of our God on their foreheads!**”*

*Rev. 7:4 I heard the number of those who were sealed, **one hundred forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the children of Israel:***

*Rev. 14:1 I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him a **number, one hundred forty-four thousand, having his name, and the name of his Father, written on their foreheads.***

*Rev. 14:4 These are those who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are those who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. **These were redeemed by Jesus from among men, the first fruits to God and to the Lamb.***

These saints must be from the kingdom of Israel

In other words, those of all nations and ethnicities and tribes of the earth who have in some way heard the message of Jesus Christ and refused to accept the Beast will be martyred for their faith. These are not the 144,000 of all twelve tribes of Israel for their number is clearly stated while the martyrs are an innumerable group. The large multitude of martyrs seen by the altar of God in chapter 6 are, just as the Church of Jesus Christ is now, from all nations and tribes of the world. The descriptions are of to completely different groups of believers in God. Now if these last large

groups of believers in Jesus Christ were martyred in Rev. 7:9 then they cannot also be the saints here in Rev. 13:7 that the beast fights against and is allowed to overcome. There is only one other body of saints of God that exist and they are the children of Israel. Judah is the kingly tribe of the nation but the other tribes must be brought back to the kingdom again as prophesied throughout the Old Testament. The 144,000 of Revelation 7 seem to be a vanguard of some type, surely ministering to the scattered people of Israel as they begin to return to the land.

Rev 13:8 and all that dwell on the earth shall do it homage, *every one* whose name had not been written from *the* founding of *the* world in the book of life of the slain Lamb.

Comments –

All who dwell on the earth will worship him Epiphanies did not do in Daniel chapter 11. He did erect a statue of Jupiter in the Temple and have swine sacrificed on the alter. But he didn't elevate himself above all other Gods. The prophecy of Daniel 11 is yet to see the complete fulfillment described here. The beast will be worshiped as God by the people of the earth. All who are not believers in the true God will believe the deception and worship him.

Rev 13:9 If any one has an ear, let him hear.

Rev 13:10 If any one *leads* into captivity, he goes into captivity. If any one shall kill with *the* sword, he must with *the* sword be killed. Here is the endurance and the faith of the saints.

Rev 13:11 And I saw another beast rising out of the earth; and it had two horns like to a lamb, and spake as a dragon;

Comments –

it had two horns like to a lamb -

The picture of the two horns is interesting, bringing to mind the prophecies of Daniel about the goat with the great horn and the ram with the two horns. But those represented Alexander the Great of the Greeks who defeated the Medes and the Persians, represented by the ram. To my understanding, Alexander was pictured with the horns of a ram in the Greek world after his conquests. This ram has nothing to do with that. It surely pictures Satan's substitute religion and his false replacement for the sacrificial lamb of God's appointed sacrifices. The demoniacally possessed little horn ruler is his substitute ruler and the ram here is his substitute priest which fool the people into keeping the false religion of Babylon.

and spake as a dragon -

This false religion of works will look like a true religion. But it is inspired by Satan who we have just seen is symbolized as a red dragon of old. He is ancient with seven crowned heads of ruler ship over the seven old world empires that attempted to control Israel, the people of God, and the Holy Land. They were first Egypt, then Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and then Rome. That's six. One, the sixth, Rome, existed at the time John received the revelation. He is told in chapter 17 that one more is yet to come.

Rev 17:9 Here is the mind that has wisdom: **The seven heads are seven mountains, whereon the woman sits.**

Rev 17:10 **And there are seven kings: five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes he must remain only a little while.**

Rev 17:11 **And the beast that was and is not, he also is an eighth, and is of the seven, and goes into destruction.**

Rev 13:12 and it exercises all the authority of the first beast before it, **and causes the**

earth and those that dwell in it to do homage to the first beast, whose wound of death was healed.

Comments –

to do homage to the first beast -

Finally achieving the absolute worship of man as god and by that the worship and elevation of Satan above God which is always what Lucifer has desired. He will have his rule for a short space and then be brought down to Hell and judgement with all of his worshippers.

whose wound of death was healed -

This is not the resurrection of an earthly ruler. It is the revival of the rulership of one of the ancient fallen powers under Satan who effectively ruled one of the five kingdoms before Rome the sixth. The world will be amazed at this revival of an ancient political power and an ancient world wide religious system. It may seem to many to be the answer to all problems. A uniting into a religious and political system suitable for all mankind. God will only allow atan to foster that lie on this wayward world for the short space. And then He will bring that false religious system down.

Rev 13:13 And it works great signs, that it should cause even fire to come down from heaven to the earth before men.

Comments –

that it should cause even fire to come down from heaven to the earth before men-

We might wonder if these are truly supernatural coinsurances or performed with man's technology. But do any nations have that ability at the moment. The supernatural certainly can't be ruled out. Remember the incredible appearances of the hordes of what can only be demonic beings that will first torment mankind and then be allowed by God to kill many. That is a degree of open manifestation of the demonic that we have never seen in our western world.

Rev 13:14 And it deceives those that dwell upon the earth by reason of the signs which it was given to it to work before the beast, saying to those that dwell upon the earth to make an image to the beast, which has the wound of the sword, and lived.

Rev 13:15 And it was given to it to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should also speak, and should cause that as many as should not do homage to the image of the beast should be killed.

Rev 13:16 And it causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bondmen, that they should give them a mark upon their right hand or upon their forehead;

Rev 13:17 and that no one should be able to buy or sell save he that had the mark, the name of the beast, or the number of its name.

Comments –

And it deceives those that dwell upon the earth by reason of the signs-

These miraculous works that the false prophet, as he is called, does are sufficient to convince the masses that they are the works of god, and they will do what he requests, making an idol of the beast and compelling the people to worship it. They will also be required to take a physical mark on their bodies that will allow them to engage in commerce. Without it they will starve even if they survive the efforts of the beast to find and kill them. In our modern computer world it is not difficult to understand that a magnetic bar code or some other form of tag can be placed just under the skin and not seen and yet be used to access a computerized system.

Rev 13:18 Here is wisdom. He that has understanding let him count the number of the beast: for it is a man's number; and its number *is* six hundred *and* sixty-six.

Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary from the e-Sword Bible Program -

six hundred threescore and six— A and *Vulgate* write the numbers in full in the *Greek*. But B writes merely the three *Greek* letters standing for numbers, *Ch, X, St*. “C reads” 616, but Irenaeus, 328, opposes this and maintains “666.” Irenaeus, in the second century, disciple of Polycarp, John’s disciple, explained this number as contained in the *Greek* letters of *Lateinos* (L being thirty; A, one; T, three hundred; E, five; I, ten; N, fifty; O, seventy; S, two hundred). The *Latin* is peculiarly the language of the Church of Rome in all her official acts; the forced unity of language in ritual being the counterfeit of the true unity; the premature and spurious anticipation of the real unity, only to be realized at Christ’s coming, when all the earth shall speak “one language” ([Zep 3:9](#)). The last Antichrist may have a close connection with Rome, and so the name *Lateinos* (666) may apply to him. The *Hebrew* letters of *Balaam* amount to 666 [Bunsen]; a type of the *false prophet*, whose characteristic, like Balaam’s, will be high spiritual knowledge perverted to Satanic ends. The number *six* is the world number; in 666 it occurs in units, tens, and hundreds. It is next neighbor to the sacred *seven*, but is severed from it by an impassable gulf...

Comments on vs. 16-18 -

Six is often considered the number of man in the study of Bible numbers and their meanings because man was created on the sixth day. It’s one day short of the true perfection of God as He rested from His perfect works on the seventh day. Here the number is used three times, a trinity, and so it is a counterfeit trinity of man and Satan, using the Babylonian religious system and the Beast’s political and financial power to bind mankind further from God.

and that no one should be able to buy or sell save he that had the mark The Beast will have enough control to enforce this and anyone realizing the danger and refusing to take his mark won’t be able to buy or sell. Can any survive this situation. Perhaps some few might living on the edges of civilized areas or in the wilds but they would be reduced to scavenging for the smallest amounts of food. We must remember that in the beginning of the Great Tribulation we saw terrible warfare in the Middle East where this Beast (the little horn) comes to power. We then saw the destruction lead to a scarcity of food so severe that the common people had to work all day and brought home only starvation rations for a family. That would mean that any people who had survived this and refused to accept the authority of the Beast would only be able to live on the fringes of this society or in the wilds under severe conditions beyond anything we can imagine today. This is not a world to willing wait for. The only sane choice is asking for and acceptance of God’s forgiveness bought through Christ’s sacrifice and a life of faith, despite our many imperfections which all have, until He returns for us.

Conclusion -

We have seen in this chapter 13 the beastly ruler of the tribulation rising from the sea representing the peoples of the earth. He is portrayed as a beast with attributes that hint at his origins and seat of power. The beast has ten horns of power and seven heads of authority. It is like a leopard in general appearance but with significant differences such as a mouth of a lion (the voice of Babylon and Satan’s lie) and the feet of a bear showing the earthly rulers place of origin in the area of the old Medo-Persian Empire. Satan, the dragon of old, has given him his power and authority. This last head of authority seems to be a re manifestation of one of the earlier demonic powers who ruled one of the earlier empires form behind the scene. It’s seeming revival and the appearance of it’s pattern of rule once again amazes mankind who will willingly follow this ruler as a god worshiping him. He is allowed to rule in this power for only 42 months which is 3 ½ years. Surely the same 3 ½ years of the little horn that Daniel saw in chapter 7 who makes a peace accord with Israel for 7 years and then, as chapter 9 shows, invades midway through.