

## Things to Come

### #17 The Beasts

#### (Rev. 13:1-8)

### I. Introduction

- A. There are 7 "signs" associated with this section of scripture:
  - 1. The Woman 12:1-2
  - 2. The Dragon 12:3-6
  - 3. War in heaven 12:7-9
  - 4. War on earth 12:13-18
  - 5. The beast from the sea 13:1-10
  - 6. The beast from the earth 13:11-18
  - 7. Angelic judgment
- B. Old Testament parallel passages regarding the antichrist
  - 1. Daniel 7: World History as God sees it  
vs. 1-7, 17-18: The lion; The bear; The leopard; The dreadful beast.  
vs. 7-8, 19-26  
The fourth beast represents Rome. (Revived Roman Empire)  
Ten horns: 10 kingdoms that reign together at one time.  
The little horn: The Antichrist
  - 2. Daniel 8:23-25, 9:26, 11:36-45
- C. New Testament passages
  - 1. Matthew 24:15-16
  - 2. II Thessalonians 2:3-10
  - 3. I John 2:18-22, 4:3

### II. The Beast coming out of the sea (Rev. 13:1-10)

This world leader appears on the scene just as the people are clamoring for a strong, authoritative, decisive leader who can provide a sense of security and give them peace. He is going to rule the entire world and ultimately will receive their spiritual worship.

Satan is trying to set up a counterfeit kingdom and prevent Christ from establishing His kingdom on earth. Satan knows that time is running out.

Note that the BEAST represents both a kingdom and the person of the Antichrist. He is the "Man of lawlessness."

A. His description (vs. 1)

"shore of the sea"-coming from the nations of the world

"the sea": the abyss (see 11:7, 17:8)

"ten horns/7 heads/ten crowns" : this imagery is matching up with the picture of the 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom in Daniel 7. It represents all the nations of the world. This final empire is a revival of sorts of the Roman Empire.

B. His image (vs. 2): Leopard, bear, lion

John's list is in reverse order of Daniel's list. He is looking backward in time. The Antichrist's empire will be a composite of all the empires that preceded it.

C. His wound (vs.3):

This term is translated "floggings," "beatings," and "plague" in other places in the NT. His death may be real (and Satan is allowed to bring him back to life) or it is faked. Again, it is a counterfeit of Christ's death and resurrection.

D. His authority (vs. 4): The dragon (Satan) gives this beast his authority and the whole earth is amazed.

E. His blasphemy (vs. 5-6):

"There was given to Him"- God has sovereign control over Satan

God only gives him authority to act for 3 and ½ years

Note Daniel's insight: 7:8, 7:25, 11:36

F. His goal (vs. 7): Make war -This is not a military campaign, but the intent to destroy the physical lives of the people of God.

G. His admirers (vs. 8-10)

"all who dwell on the earth" is a term for unbelievers

"Lamb's Book of Life"- all those who will inherit eternal life. See Rev. 21:27 and Luke 10:20

### **III. The Beast coming out of the earth (vs. 11-18)**

This is the religious "assistant" to the beast from the sea (the Antichrist). Through the ages, there have been many partnerships between political and religious power brokers. Men and women need someone to worship and someone to follow. The Antichrist and his beasts give them both.

This beast is a False Prophet.

There are many false prophets in the scriptures. In the OT, see Isa. 9:15, Jer. 29:21-23, and Eze. 13:17. In the NT, see Acts 13:6-12 for Paul's encounter with Bar-Jesus.

As the end times approach, there will be many more false prophets (Matt. 24:11) Satan is a liar and the Antichrist will be the most powerful deceiver yet.

"To Deceive:" it means to wander. It is the word we get the English word for planets....that wander in the sky.

A. His description (vs. 11)

"two horns" but "like a lamb": he is not a conquering dictator, but a seemingly gentle and subtle deceiver.

"spoke like a dragon": Yet, he is indeed Satan's mouthpiece

B. His power (vs. 12-14)

He has the same demonic power as the beast from the sea. His goal is to get everyone to worship the first beast. He performs miraculous signs and wonders (See Deut. 13:1-5 and Mark 13:22). He imitates the two witnesses by making fire come down from heaven.

C. His program (vs. 15-18)

When the "charade" of the first 3 and ½ years is over, there is a death sentence for anyone who does not worship the Antichrist.

The Mark: It comes from a Greek word that means to engrave. (like tattoos or a brand). Without this marking, no one will be able to buy or sell.

It represents the name or the number of the name of the beast.

"Gematria:" numbers that represent letters

In the numerical symbolism of the scriptures, "7" represents completeness and "6" represents man himself.

## IV. So What?

Consider the powerfulness of the "antichrists" who have already come (I John 2:18). Think about the influence a charismatic leader or spiritual speaker or religious movement wields. We are susceptible to such influences. The only retort or rebuke for such compelling strength is the scriptures. We MUST be people of the book.