

Revelation: A Study of End-Time Events

Lesson Seven: Chapter 13

Overview:

In Chapter 13, we will see the introduction of the revived Roman Empire through which the Antichrist will arise, and another “beast” referred to as the False Prophet. As the representative of the Antichrist, the False Prophet will be given authority over the political and economic systems, and force all the earth’s inhabitants to worship the Antichrist or suffer death.

Chapter 13: The Two Beasts

13:1

- 1) The sea (*thalassa*) is a common reference to the sea of humanity (“chaotic, unorganized humanity”).¹ Since Israel is described as the woman in Chapter 12, we see that nations here refer to Gentile nations. The Lord has always set Israel apart from other nations.
- 2) This beast represents Gentile world empires (to be detailed in Lesson Nine: Chapter 17). However, we will see that the ten horns pertain specifically to the fourth world empire (Rome) spoken of in Daniel 7:23, to be personified by its end-time leader, the Antichrist (v. 5). The word “beast” (*therion*) refers metaphorically, (to) “a brutal, bestial man, savage and ferocious.”

Read Daniel 7:1-8, 17-25

- 3) Daniel’s vision (Daniel 7) speaks of four successive Gentile world empires, described as beasts:

First: Babylonian Empire - pictured as a lion (7:4). This is not referring to ancient Babylon mentioned in Genesis 10 and 11, but rather the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel’s time (600 B.C.)

Second: Medo-Persian Empire - pictured as a bear (7:5)
Medes and Persians conquered Babylon (Dan. 6:8,12,15)

¹ C.I. Scofield, (Ed.), *The New Scofield Reference Bible: Authorized King James Version* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1967), p. 996. Public domain.

Third: Grecian Empire - pictured as a leopard, having four heads (7:6), a reference to Alexander the Great, and his four successors.

Fourth: Roman Empire - pictured as a “terrifying and frightful and very powerful” beast, with iron teeth to crush and devour, “and it had ten horns” (7:7-8).

- a) The ten horns (Rev. 13:1) are descriptive of the Fourth World Empire of Daniel 7:23-25 (Rome), out of which these ten horns (kings) will arise.
 - b) These ten horns are ten kings (Dan. 7:23-24), but they are not historical figures of the past. Revelation Chapter 17 places them in the final seven-year Tribulation period. Read Rev. 17:12-13
 - c) This tells us that they are a confederacy of kings/leaders living at the time of the Antichrist, briefly receiving joint authority with him.
- 4) The Lord gave Daniel two visions to describe these four world empires, each with additional insights. Read Dan. 2:31-45

The statue in four parts:

- 1) Head of gold (Nebuchadnezzar/Babylonian Empire)
- 2) Silver chest and arms (Medo-Persia)
- 3) Bronze belly and thighs (Greece)
- 4) Iron legs *extending* to the feet and 10 toes of clay/iron mixture (Roman Empire). This is the additional insight from this vision:
 - a) The Roman Empire continues, in a weaker divided form, until the time of the end. It was never conquered and replaced, as were the previous empires.
 - b) As two legs of iron, the Roman Empire is divided east to west.
 - c) The ten toes on the statue correspond to the ten horns on the fourth beast. The ten toes are ten kings, from both the east and the west. Christ is the “Rock” and His Kingdom will become as a mountain. He will strike the feet, toppling the statue, smashing it to pieces.

The statue of Daniel 2 was in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, which the prophet Daniel first revealed and then interpreted for him. The four parts of the statue correspond to Daniel's vision of the four beasts in Daniel Chapter 7, signifying the four Gentile World Powers, beginning in Nebuchadnezzar's time and extending until the return of Christ.

The legs of iron correspond with the fourth beast, the Roman Empire. It is important to note that there are two legs, since the Roman Empire was later divided, East and West. The western division of the Roman Empire ruled over Europe, while the eastern division included parts of Asia, the Middle East, and northern Africa, most of which is Muslim today.

The feet and ten toes of the statue extend from the two legs, and correspond to the ten horns of the beast. Both signify the ten kings that we are studying here. Based on what we see in Daniel 7:23-25 and Rev. 17:12-13, these ten kings will rule over a global empire. That means that there will be ten regional governments, rather than ten nations. The Antichrist will be the leader of the global government who enters into a 7-year peace treaty with Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation period (Daniel 9:27). This corresponds with the release of the first horseman (the Antichrist) in Revelation 6:2, which takes place after the Rapture.

You can visit www.clubofrome.org (Club of Rome) for insight into the current global movement.

13:2

- 1) The beast out of the sea has the characteristics of all four beasts (empires) described in Daniel 7:4-8, representing Gentile world power. We will see in Rev. 13:5 that the Antichrist is the mouthpiece of the beast, then becomes synonymous with the beast.
- 2) The dragon (Satan) will give the beast (Antichrist) his power, throne and authority. Read Matt. 4:1, 8-10. The offer that Jesus refused, the Antichrist will accept. Luke 22:3: "*Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot.*" *In the same way, Satan will enter the Antichrist.*
- 3) According to 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8, the Antichrist cannot be revealed until the one who restrains evil is taken out of the way. That is a reference to the Holy Spirit working through the Church. After the rapture, there will be no restraining of evil, but the Holy Spirit will continue to be at work in bringing people to saving faith in Christ (ex: Great Multitude of chapter 7).

13:3

- 1) The beast will *seem* to have had a fatal wound. We will see in vv. 11-14 that the beast coming up out of the earth, the False Prophet, will deceive the inhabitants of the earth on behalf of the Antichrist. (The word “counterfeit” is defined as “to copy or imitate in order to deceive.”²) The Antichrist is a false messiah. Apparently, he will seek to counterfeit the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 9-12
- 2) “... but the fatal wound had been healed,” speaking of both the empire and its future leader (Rev. 13:12-14). Think of the Roman Empire, which appeared to have “died,” but will be “resurrected” in the last days.
- 3) What do we know about Satan’s ability to resurrect the Antichrist?
 - a) We know that “man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). If the Antichrist truly received a fatal wound, his soul would immediately go to Hades (“torment” - see Luke 16:19-31 and the Chart of Hades in Lesson One) and would not be released until the day of judgment (Rev. 20:11-15), when he would be cast into the lake of fire.
 - b) We know that only God can give life. When we read that God will resurrect the Two Witnesses (Rev. 11:11) it was said that “a breath of life from God entered them.” Satan cannot resurrect the Antichrist. Satan himself is a created being, and cannot create or give life to anyone. He can only *deceive* people into thinking that he has!

13:4

- 1) “Who can make war against him?” Read Daniel 11:36-39
- 2) Men will worship Satan because he will give his authority to the Antichrist, and they will also worship the Antichrist.

13:5

The beast will be given a mouth(piece) - a man, “the ruler who will come” (Daniel 9:26), who becomes synonymous with the beast. We see the beast identified as a man in Rev. 19:20. The beast also represents Gentile World Power, culminating in the Fourth World Empire of Daniel 7, known to be the Roman Empire. It is often said that the Roman Empire will be “revived” in the last days. It will actually be an

² Miriam-Webster Dictionary © 1997 by Miriam-Webster, Incorporated.

extension of the original, even as the feet and toes of the statue in Daniel Chapter 2 extend from the legs, having never been severed (conquered by a subsequent empire). It “seemed to have a fatal head wound” (Rev. 13:3).

13:6-7

He (the Antichrist) will be given political authority over the *entire* world. This goes beyond the territory of the original Roman Empire, which covered the European and Mediterranean areas.

13:8-10

- 1) The names of those who die without saving faith will be blotted out of the Book of Life, which appears to be a register of all those given life from the creation of the world. (This does not refer to children or those not mentally accountable for sin). Some believe Scripture speaks of two separate books: the Book of Life, and the Lamb’s Book of Life, mentioned here, where a believer’s name is written at the moment of their salvation.

Read Psalm 139:13-16 (at conception); Psalm 9:5; 69:28; Rev. 3:5; 20:15.

However, those who worship the beast and take his mark will automatically have their names erased from the Book of Life while yet living.

Read Rev. 14:9-11.

- 2) V.10 “*This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.*” We will see the same words used in Rev. 14:12. This is in reference to believers who refuse to take the mark of the beast, for which most will be captured and beheaded. Read Revelation 20:4; Jude 1:24

13:11-12

- 1) The False Prophet, like the Antichrist, will be indwelt by Satan (possessed), and used for his purposes. He “spoke like a dragon,” like Satan, the Father of lies (John 8:44). Read Rev.16:13, which speaks of his satanic possession, and Rev. 20:10, which tells us of their final destination.
- 2) “...like a lamb.” Jesus is called the Lamb of God. The False Prophet is a deceitful religious leader who will force all the earth’s inhabitants to worship the Antichrist.
- 3) The False Prophet will also exercise authority over the world political and economic systems, on behalf of the Antichrist.

13:13-15

- 1) “breath” (*pneuma*) is “spirit, i.e. vital principle by which the body is animated.” Remember, no one can CREATE life except God, and that the False Prophet will use satanic powers to deceive. Read Exodus 7:8-12.
- 2) This is “an image (*eikon*), figure, likeness.” It is the same word used in 2 Cor. 4:4 (please read).

13:16-18

- 1) The False Prophet, representing the world religious system, will then be in control of the political world system of the Antichrist (v.12), and as we see here, the economic world system, as well.
- 2) While the number seven symbolizes completion or perfection, the number six is the number of man³. The number 666 can be seen as Satan’s attempt to use mankind to displace God: Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet as opposed to God the Father, Christ His Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Now what?

How will this lesson change the way you live?

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³ Jamieson, Fausset, Brown, *Commentary on Revelation*. “Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible”. 1871. Public Domain.