

Revelation 13 - The Beast

The Beast

Rev 13:1-18 ESV And I saw a **beast rising out of the sea**, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. 2 And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth.

A beast (often referred to as the Antichrist)

Scriptures that speak of antichrist

- 1Jn 2:18 Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now **many antichrists have come**. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.
 - There are many (not just one)
 - They have been here since the days that John wrote 1 John (not just at the end)
 - It is a sign of the last hour (the last days have been here since the start of the church on Pentecost - see Acts 2:17)
- **Antichrist is anyone who denies the Father and the Son** - 1Jn 2:22 Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.
- **The spirit of the antichrist does not confess that Jesus is from God** - 1Jn 4:3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.
- **Antichrist will not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh** - 2Jn 1:7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.

Rising out of the sea - as we have discussed - the waters and sea represent mankind - the beast comes from man

- Rev 17:15 NIV Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages."

The beast resembles the dragon of chapter 12 - main difference is the number and placement of the crowns

- The dragon - Rev 12:3 NIV Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous **red dragon** with seven heads and ten horns and **seven crowns on its heads**.
- The beast - ten horns and seven heads, with **ten diadems [crowns] on its horns**

Like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth

- **This is very much like the description of the various beasts in the book of Daniel** -- Dan 7:3-6 Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea. "The first was like a **lion**, and it had the wings of an **eagle**. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a human being, and the mind of a human was given to it. "And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a **bear**. It was

raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!' "After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a **leopard**. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.

- In Daniel these beasts represented nations that became world powers
 - Babylon, Greece, Rome
- This beast was an aggregate of all the animals perhaps describing a culmination or aggregate of all that is evil in these various nations

The Authority of the Beast

And to it **the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.** 3 One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and **the whole earth marveled** as they followed the beast. 4 And **they worshiped the dragon**, for he had given his authority to the beast, and **they worshiped the beast**, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

His authority came from Satan [the dragon]

At the sign of a miracle the world marveled and followed the beast

- Mat 16:4 ESV An **evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign**, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah." So he left them and departed.
- 2Th 2:8-10 ESV And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is by **the activity of Satan** with all **power** and **false signs** and **wonders**, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, ***because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.***

The whole earth worshiped the dragon -- Satan desires worship

- **He was at the throne of God - and tabrets and pipes were created in him --** Eze 28:13-14 KJV Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: **the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.** 14 Thou art the **anointed cherub that covereth**; and I have set thee so: **thou wast upon the holy mountain of God**; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.
- **He asked Jesus to worship him --** Mat 4:9-10 ESV And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ""You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.""
- **Now in antichrist worship will come to him --** 2Th 2:3-4 ESV Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is

revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and **exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship**, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

Ultimately his desire will be fulfilled in the beast

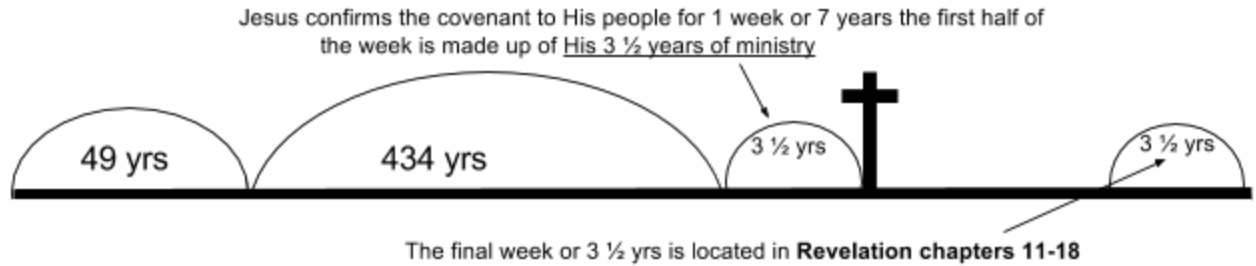
- Rev 13:6-8 ESV It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. 7 Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, 8 and **all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life** of the Lamb who was slain.
- Rev 13:12 ESV It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and **makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast**, whose mortal wound was healed.
- Rev 13:15 ESV And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause **those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain**.
- Rev 14:9-10 ESV And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "**If anyone worships the beast and its image** and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 **he also will drink the wine of God's wrath**, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

5 And the beast was given a mouth **uttering haughty and blasphemous words**, and it was allowed to exercise authority for **forty-two months**. 6 It opened its mouth to utter **blasphemies against God**, blaspheming his **name** and his **dwelling**, that is, **those who dwell in heaven**. 7 Also it was allowed to **make war on the saints and to conquer them**. And authority was given it **over every tribe and people and language and nation**,

The description of what the beast does is the same as the horn in Daniel 7

“LITTLE” HORN OF DANIEL 7	BEAST OF REVELATION 13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words against the Most High (Daniel 7:25) • made war with the saints and prevailed over them(Daniel 7:21) • and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time (Daniel 7:25) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uttering haughty and blasphemous words against God (Revelation 13:5,6) • allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them (Revelation 13:7). • allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months (Revelation 13:5).

Allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months - the same 3 ½ years at the end of the age



8 and **all who dwell on earth will worship it**, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

The world will be defined by two groups

- Those who worship the beast
- Those whose names are written in the book of the life of the Lamb who was slain

9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear: 10 If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. **Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.**

As the beast makes war on the saints and conquers them, we are told by the LORD to have endurance and faith. It is a similar message he spoke to a number of the churches

Remember he told the martyrs there are others who must die as well

- Rev 6:11 ESV Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

Don't fear him who can take your life

- Luk 12:4-5 ESV "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. 5 But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!
- **Jesus will give you the crown of life** -- Rev 2:10 ESV Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and **I will give you the crown of life.**

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

- Rev 2:2-3 ESV "I know your works, your toil and your **patient endurance**, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and

are not, and found them to be false. 3 I know you are **enduring patiently** and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.

- Rev 2:19 ESV "I know your works, your love and faith and service and **patient endurance**, and that your latter works exceed the first.
- Rev 3:10 ESV Because you have kept my word about **patient endurance**, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

Another Beast

11 Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two **horns like a lamb** and it spoke like a **dragon**. 12 It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its **inhabitants worship** the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. 13 It **performs great signs**, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, 14 and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast **it deceives those who dwell on earth**, telling them to **make an image** for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

Perhaps a religious leader - some call this beast the false prophet

- Horns like a lamb (Jesus is the true lamb)
- Spoke like a dragon (the dragon is Satan, a liar from the beginning)
- Makes the earth worship the beast (worship and serve **ONLY** the LORD our God)
- Perform great signs by which he deceives those who dwell on earth
- Make an image (prohibited in the 10 commandments)

15 And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause **those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain**. 16 Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, 17 so that no one can buy or sell **unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name**.

- The image of the beast came to life
- It can speak, It can kill
- It can cause people to be marked on the right hand or forehead by requiring this before a person could buy or sell
- The mark is **HIS NAME** or the **NUMBER OF HIS NAME**

18 This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

In the book of Revelation there is much to be said about the name and about the name being written on people

Some fear His name, some blaspheme His name

- Rev 11:18 ESV The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and **those who fear your name**, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth."
- Rev 13:6 ESV It opened its mouth to **utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name** and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.
- **The name of God written on the one who overcomes** - Rev 3:12 ESV The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and **I will write on him the name of my God**, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.
- **Cannot buy or sell without the mark/name of the beast** - Rev 13:17 ESV so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.
- **144,000 had the Father's name written on their foreheads** - Rev 14:1 ESV Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.
- **The judgement of those who receive the mark of the beast's name** - Rev 14:11 ESV And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."
- **These are they who have conquered the beast and the number of its name** - Rev 15:2 ESV And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire--and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands.
- **May we always glorify your name** - Rev 15:4 ESV Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."
- **His name will be on their foreheads** - Rev 22:3-4 ESV No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.
4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

There is a great battle between the beast, the LORD and his people. The beast is given authority by the dragon and attempts to assert himself into the lives of everyone, to blaspheme the LORD and to draw worship unto himself. Perhaps the 666 [it is the number of man] is simple a reminder to us that the BEAST is ONLY a MAN and not the LORD of Glory, that no matter what signs, or miracles he performs, or what demands he makes, he is only a man who is himself ultimately subject to the Authority of the LORD Jesus.