

REVELATION Chapter 13

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We have seen that Satan cannot win in fighting against God! Never forget that! But that doesn't mean that he won't continue to try. In spite of Satan's persecutions, the people of God have assurance and hope because they know the ultimate victory is theirs!

I. THE BEAST COMES UP OUT OF THE SEA, 13:1-10

A. Description of the sea beast, vv. 1-3

1. “*out of the sea*”
 - a. Symbolically, “sea” represents the nations (see Isaiah 17:12-14; 57:20; Revelation 17:1, 15).
 - b. Thus, the sea of humanity is that out of which the beast rises.
2. “*seven heads*” = complete authority (cf. Genesis 3:15; Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:22-31).
The name of blasphemy”: causes men to blaspheme God.
3. “*ten horns*”
 - a. “Horns” indicate power (see Deuteronomy 33:17; 1 Samuel 2:10; 1 Kings 22:11; Luke 1:69).
 - b. “ten” indicates “completeness” – thus, complete power!
4. “*ten crowns*” = kingly power, rulership, reign.
5. Like a leopard, feet of a bear, mouth of a lion – dragon gave him power & authority.

COMPARE Daniel 7:1-8

- a. Sea: Rev. 13:1 & Dan. 7:3
- b. Ten horns: Rev. 13:1 & Dan. 7:7
- c. Leopard, bear, lion: Rev. 13:2 & Dan. 7:3-6
- d. Blasphemous: Rev. 13:5 & Dan. 7:8, 20, 25
- e. Wars against the saints: Rev. 13:7 & Dan. 7:21, 25
- f. 42 months (Rev. 13:5) – Time, times, ½ time (Dan. 7:25).

Notice the conclusion of both:

Daniel 7:27: triumph for the saints of the most High God!

Revelation 13:9-10: have patience, the enemy will be destroyed!

Who is the fourth beast of Daniel? *The Empire that rose after Greece – **ROME!***

- 1) **BABYLON**
- 2) **MEDO-PERSIA**
- 3) **GREECE**
- 4) **ROME!**

6. One head wounded to death ... deadly wound healed!

NOTE: Nero (54-68 AD) was the first Roman emperor to persecute Christians. In 68 AD he committed suicide, but the persecution would begin again under Domitian (cf. 17:8-11). Thus the deadly wound healed!

THE LINE OF ROMAN EMPERORS: (compare Daniel 7, Revelation 13 & 17)

DANIEL (Ten Horns)

1. Augustus
2. Tiberius
3. Caligula
4. Claudius
5. Nero

6. Galba (68 AD)
7. Otho (68 AD)
8. Vitellius (69 AD)

9. Vespasian

10. Titus

11. Domitian

REVELATION (Seven Heads)

1. Augustus (27 BC – 14 AD): Luke 2:1-5
2. Tiberius (14-37 AD): Luke 3:1
3. Caligula (37-41 AD)
4. Claudius (41-54 AD)
5. Nero (54-68 AD)

6. Vespasian (69-79 AD) “one is” (17:10)
7. Titus (79-81 AD) “yet to come”
8. Domitian (81-96 AD) “eighth” (17:11)

B. The power of the beast, vv. 4-8

1. The dragon and the beast are worshipped: in John’s day, all mankind worshipped Rome and the Emperor (except Christians, which brought on the persecution).
2. Mouth speaking great things and blasphemies: power, rule, and authority.
3. Make war with the saints and overcome them – *physically!*

C. Encouragement for Christians to hold fast: (*Rome will fall!*), vv. 9-10

THE SEA BEAST IS ROMAN PERSECUTING POWER!

II. THE BEAST COMES UP OUT OF THE EARTH, 13:11-18

A. The earth beast is described in view of worship, vv. 11-12

1. “*two horns like a lamb*” – lamb has religious significance, thus at least outwardly we see a religious image in this vision.
2. “*spake as a dragon*”: Satanic (the dragon is Satan – Revelation 12).
3. “*all the power of the first beast*”: authority derived from Roman Empire.
4. “*causeth the earth...to worship the first beast*”: false religion - emperor worship!

B. The earth beast is powerful and deceitful, vv. 13-15

1. “*doeth great wonders*” (cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10; Exodus 7-8; Acts 8:9-10).
2. “*deceiveth them that dwell on earth*” (cf. Matthew 7:15 ff; 2 Timothy 3:13; 2 John 7).
3. Make images to the beast: idolatry (cf. Romans 1:21-23).
4. Forces men to worship the beast, and kills them if they don't (Matthew 4:9-10).

C. The earth beast gives a mark of distinction, vv. 16-18

1. All would be marked, and this mark would indicate allegiance and approval: *only those marked (showing allegiance to Rome) could buy or sell.*
2. The “name of the beast” is worn by his followers (as Christians wear the name of Christ, indicating ownership and allegiance – see Acts 4:12; 11:26; James 2:7).
3. The number of a beast is the number of a man (the enemy would be human): **666**

**NOTE: Remember that the number seven (7) stands for completeness, fullness, perfection. Six (6) represents that which is short of perfection – it falls short of victory and indicates something BAD! Thus “666” would be bad multiplied – saturation with evil.*

THE SEA BEAST IS ROMAN FALSE RELIGION

CONCLUSION:

John has shown us three evil forces warring against God and His people: Satan, the Sea-Beast (Roman persecution) and the Earth-Beast (Roman false religion). Though this chapter presents a dark picture, chapter 14 will show us the forces of righteousness triumphant!