

A Beast Rose Up Out of the Sea

Revelation 13:1-10

In a moment we will read Revelation verses one through ten from chapter 13.

In the way of introduction, I need to take a few minutes and bring to your attention the words of Daniel the prophet who lays the foundation for our understanding of Revelation 13:1.

In Daniel 7:7 the prophet says, *“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it.”*

As you may recall, the Lord revealed to Daniel the rule of gentile power beginning with Babylon under King Nebuchadnezzar followed by the Medes and Persians, and then the Greeks, and finally the great Roman Empire. Daniel refers to the great Roman Empire as the fourth beast, which he describes as dreadful and terrible and exceedingly strong. Indeed, Rome’s exceeding strength ruled the world for nearly 1700 years. Most significantly Christ lived under its power and died at the order of a Roman ruler.

Daniel 7:7 ends with this statement: *“it was different from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.”* The last statement of Daniel 7:7 takes us to a future time when the Roman Empire, the fourth beast, would have ten horns. Verse 24 of Daniel 7 goes on to say, *“And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise.”*

We need to understand no such arrangement ever existed in the history of the Roman Empire. Thus, the emergence of these ten kings must be in the future and must rise from the old Roman kingdom. The reference to the ten horns indicates the

revival of the Roman Empire will occur in the end time when ten nations from the geographical region that defined the old empire band together. There is no need to speculate as to the exact identity of these ten nations, but it is safe to say that Italy and the city of Rome will play a prominent role in the last great kingdom of gentile power. Think about that.

Quickly, let me mention two more things from the prophet Daniel. First, Daniel says as he considered the horns there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots: and in this (little) horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Next, Daniel indicates this fourth beast under the control of the little horn will devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. With these things in mind, we come to John's parallel passage in Revelation chapter 13.

Now look with me at verses one and two:

1And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

2And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

The beast spoken of in these two verses represents both the kingdom of the antichrist as well as the antichrist himself. Revelation 13:1 speaks of the final world government, the revived Roman Empire with its ten horns, or ten kings. The beast rises out of the sea, that is, out of the nations.

Following the rapture of the church a brief preparation period leading up to the beginning of the seven-year tribulation must occur. In that brief window of time the man of sin will be revealed and his rise to power as the little horn spoken of by Daniel the prophet will occur. In short order, post-rapture, both the kingdom and the ruler of this last world-wide gentile power will manifest. Satan (the dragon) now unhindered by the Sovereign hand of the Holy Spirit, shall give the beast his power, his seat, and his authority.

John's reference to seven heads corresponds to Daniel's prophecy that indicates the little horn, the antichrist, will subdue three of the kings involved leaving only seven heads, or seven rulers exercising delegated authority from the antichrist. While all ten nations remain intact and under the control of antichrist, he will dispose of three leaders who evidently will not cooperate with his full agenda. Now look again at verses three and four:

3And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

4And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

Please take careful note of how the world will “wonder” after the beast. Something harms the beast. However, he survives. This “healing” from a deadly wound causes the world to embrace the deception fostered by Satan.

The Bible says of the antichrist, *“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion,*

that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

While the greatest day of deception the world has ever seen is just around the corner there is an immediate question for each of you today. Do you love the truth? Will you receive the truth of the gospel that you might be saved? Are you already following the spirit of antichrist which is in the world as I speak? There is a simple way to determine if you are following the spirit of antichrist.

If you have not surrendered your life to the Lord Jesus Christ, then you are opposed to him. You are fighting against the Savior. You may not discern this, but you are in league with the spirit of antichrist. Jesus insists that you are either for him, or you are against him. The possibility of neutrality toward Christ does not exist. So I ask you: are you for him, or are you against him? Are you following the spirit of antichrist, which is already in the world, or have you renounced the hidden things of dishonesty? Have you turned from the spirit of error which denies Jesus and have you turned to the Spirit of truth that exalts the Lord Jesus Christ?

Let me say it this way: do you confess that Jesus is the Lord who came from heaven for your salvation? Do you understand the love he manifested for you at the cross? Do you know he died as your sin bearer? Do you know he carried the guilt of your sin out into the wilderness where he died as your scapegoat? Have you bowed the knee to Christ in humble repentance? Are you now trusting him as your Savior? Do you love the truth as it is in Jesus? Then you are saved! Praise his name!

Conclusion

5And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Note the beast (the antichrist and his kingdom) has power to rule for 3 ½ years, the second half of the tribulation period known as the “great tribulation.” While the antichrist is on the world scene at the very beginning of the tribulation and initiates the beginning of Daniel’s 70th week of Bible prophecy by signing a peace agreement with Israel, it is after he desecrates the temple and demands the worship of the whole world that he takes absolute power over the nations.

6And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

7And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

8And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

9If any man have an ear, let him hear.

May the Lord give you grace to hear his Word is my prayer.