

Chapter 13

Introduction

We pick up now with the last two of the seven characters introduced in Chapter 12- the 'Wild Beasts'. As you will recall, there are a total of seven characters introduced below. This section focuses on the "unholy trinity". You Satan still wants his own Kingdom and thinks of himself worthy to be God. So, he sets out to set-up a false Christ, false Holy Spirit and of course, he is the false God. These two beasts represent two of the three persons in his unholy trinity.

Woman	Child
Red Dragon	Wild Beast out of the Sea
Arc Angel Michael	Wild Beast out of the Earth
Remnant	

Antichrist – Defined as 2 different meanings of the word Anti in scripture and are used throughout.

1. Over against
2. In place of or instead of

There are many antichrist both in our day and in John’s day (1 john 2:18). Scripture says to test the spirits because many deceivers will come in His Name.--

Personal Comment: For this reason, you are here today to study God’s Word. You cannot discern or test a message that is given without knowledge of the scriptures. Bible Study and small groups should always be first and foremost about straight teaching of the Word. I have felt led to teach out of the books of the bible, so that we may become Disciples of Christ discerning His good and perfect will and not be like a child living on milk alone.

Revelation 12:9 said Satan will deceive the whole world. Therefore, how can we stand up for our families protect our children? Can you discern the sheep from the wolf in sheep’s clothes?

Can someone name some new truth that you have gotten out of this study that has made you less susceptible to believing the unfounded predictions or out and out lies concerning God’s plan in the end times?

Rev 13:1 The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

Picture this... Satan stands on the sand of the Sea (representing the Nations of the world – tossing about standing in contrast to the throne of God which was glass like the sea but placid in total control). Satan is the Master mind. Now with his restraints removed. God allows him the free will to act once God’s will with His people is accomplished. Then, Satan calls out His Beast out of the sea. Wild Beast out of sea, though there is disagreement on the identity. Most scholars believe this is the Political leader, a person, or some say it is the last form of the last Roman Empire. Much of this comes from the fact that it is impossible to separate a king from his kingdom. Rev 16:10 mentions the Throne of the Wild Beast, so this is likely a person, probably the king or political leader of the restored Roman Empire. Some believe he is a false prophet, man of sin or Satan’s Prophet (Like John the Baptist for Jesus). Remember he is the great deceiver. Others, believe the second beast out of the earth holds the false prophet role.

What about the 10 horns and ten crowns? What is the interpretation? Did God leave us to figure it out or is it given to us in His Word? Read Daniel 7:19-25

Rev 13:2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. The explanation for this composite beast having the characteristics of the prior empires is in Daniel 7.

Verse	Multi-metallic	Four Beast	Nation Empire	Explanation
7:4	Head of Gold	Lion with eagle's wings	Babylon	Lion is the king of the animal kingdom. A lion statue was found in the ancient ruins and it was the symbol of the Nation of Babylon. The eagle's wings speak to the speed at which the Babylonians could move their army. The wings being plucked is a reference to Darius' army went under the city and conquered it. Making it stand on its feet like a man refers to the restoration of King of Nebuchadnezzar, and the heart represents the conversion of King Nebuchadnezzar to knowing the one true God. Babylon was the head of Gold with all the splendor and glory which archaeologists have all discovered now such as Libraries, postal system, hanging gardens, brass plumbing, indoor baths, walls 300 feet high and 4 chariots could ride abreast to protect the city.
7:5	Arms of Silver	Bear	Media Persia	Median Persia (Arms of Silver) One Side Median took Babylon. The Persians took over the rest of the world. Xerxes led a million man army with 300 ships. A Storm destroyed his fleet. God did not intend for him to defeat the west.
7:6	Sides of Brass	Panther/ Leopard	Greco-Macedonian	Leaps with suddenness. Alexander the Great moved his army faster than anyone had ever seen at that time. 4 heads represent the four generals that succeed Alexander the great who died in a drunken orgy. Did you remember how the Babylon empire ended? Do you see a parallel? 1. Macedonia - Cassander 2. Asia Minor - Lysimachus 3. Syria - Seleucus (which is foreshadows as the little horn in Revelation, for later Antiochus Epiphanes who later brought havoc in the temple in Jerusalem - More on that in Daniel 8). 4. Ptolemy took Egypt.
7:7	legs of Iron	non-descript beast	Roman Empire	This fourth beast has everything the others have plus a devastating strength never seen before. The Roman empire ruled with iron for one millennium. This was primarily the time between the Old and New Testaments. Rome fell but has never been conquered and according to scripture will rise again.

This 4th beast is given more time in scripture than the other 3 put together. More than 3/4ths of the prophecy is fulfilled. The first Roman Empire has fallen, but now we are in the midst of the 2nd Roman Empire with 10 horns.

Rev 13:3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.

The mortal wound reference here coupled with Rev 17:8 has led many to speculate that Satan raised the beast from the dead. Jesus clearly has that power and not Satan; however, Satan can and will deceive the earthly world. Some even speculate that this is Nero which Peter spoke about many times, but most agree the Roman Empire is what is resurrected not Nero – until of course the White Thrown Judgment when Jesus will raise him. The travesty is Men will believe in the resurrection of the Antichrist and not in the Resurrection of Jesus. Satan then argues he is greater and has done everything Christ has, follow him.

Do you see any similarities in Revelation 1:8 and Revelation 17:8?

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Is peace possible without the King of Peace?

This resurgence of the Roman Empire will not be like those in the past. Throughout the history of Man we have never had sustained peace – over 15K wars and 8K peace treaties. Christ is the only way for peace. The Antichrist will come with peace and promises (Remember the White Horse / Bow no Arrows). The peace

he will bring is a false peace. No peace is possible until Christ is on the throne. No matter how much tie dye you wear. How many peace rallies you attend or how powerful the UN gets.

According to scripture Revelation 3:10, can the rapture take place after this event?

This is essential that final hour of Testing in Tribulation for the Tribulations Saints. Though we may disagree with exactly when the rapture occurs. I think it is pretty clear at this point to everyone that the rapture has already occurred. Rev 3:10 states His promise to the church of Philadelphia the believing Church not the apostate Church. Jesus is to keep us from the Hour of Testing that will come upon the whole world. That is now.

Rev 13:4-6 People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?" The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

This is the pinnacle of Satan's time. The whole world has rejected Christ and God instead choosing Satan falling for the deception. Notice, like a politician this leader is able to speak great things and deceive pretty much everyone. In this case the beast would be getting 100% of the vote. Notice, the beasts starts by utter proud words. Pride leads to blaspheming God. By the way, as the Church you are specifically mentioned here in verse six - "those who live in heaven."

What emotions or thoughts will you have looking down at earth seeing this play out with an unrestrained Satan in full control on earth? Would you be able to stand and not fall for the deception?

Rev 13:7 It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.

This will be the darkest hour on this planet. Both Jew and Greek will be martyred or be in hiding there will be no protection for them for this brief time. Remember, scripture said lest those days be shortened, no one would survive. Matthew 24:22.

Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.

As Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892) put it, "I'm so glad that God chose me before the foundation of the world, because he never would have chosen me after I was born!"

Rev 13:9-10 Whoever has ears, let them hear, "If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed." This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.

Who are God's people that are left on the earth at this point? 1Chor 10:32 – The human race is divided into 3 categories: Jews, Greeks (Gentiles) & Church of God. Chapter 7 Mentions all three: Jews (144k & tribes), Greeks (Mix Multitude) and Church of God (represented by the 24 Elders). Jesus Said I have other Sheep (John 10:16). The tribulation saints are not the church.

Rev 13:11-12 Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.

Who is this second beast? Why is it significant that he comes up from the land or earth and why does he have two horns like a lamb?

The Political Leader as good as he is. He is not likely accepted by Israel. So, Satan raises up a Religious Leader from Israel who is empowered with signs and is like a lamb. Notice, however the beast speaks like a dragon. This is the second person of the unholy trinity setup by Satan.

Beast	Descriptions
One out of the Sea	Political Leader head of the last empire #4 the Resurrected Roman Empire
Two out of the Earth	Poses as Christ 2 horns like a lamb, He does the will of his father. Speaks like a Dragon (Satan uses him and speaks through him)

Rev 13:13-14 And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

This second beast trying to deceive comes with signs to validate himself and the first beast. He specifically imitates Elijah the prophet. However, God takes note that he calls down fire, and he along the other beast are the first to be thrown into the lake of fire (Rev 19:20).

The signs deceived the inhabitants of the earth. This is powerful that is why God sealed the 144,000 right before the Great Tribulation.

Notice Satan has the unholy Trinity (Satan/Beast 1/Beast 2) – he has the false resurrection, signs, wonders and miracles. Strong delusions all predicted for this very hour when the Holy Spirit is restrained.

Can Satan counterfeit the miracles of God? Can you find a reference in the Bible to support this?

Rev 13:15-17 The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.

Do you see the symbolism? Satan breathes into the idol and giving breath to it. This is no golden calf. Notice the image will focus on the mortal would just as we look at the cross. It will point to the first beast and it will be set-up in Israel in the temple. As predicted, this will be Abomination of desolation in Matthew 24:15.

Do you think they have separation of Church and state?

Did you notice the options for worshiping the idol?

Based on v16-17, what kind of ruler do you think this is?

What type of economic system would have to be in place for this to happen?

How do you think they will sell this mark to the public?

Rev 13:18 This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

Why 666? Is it a barcode? Does it mean Nero? The Greek spelling of “Nero Caesar” transliterated into Hebrew equals 666. 7 is perfection 6 is short of it is the number of man, 666 represent an unholy Trinity.

What is more wise spending time trying to decode the number of the beast or focusing on Jesus?