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A0609 – February 26, 2006 – Rev 13:1-4 – The Beast Out Of The Sea - Part 1

Revelation 13:1 And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having horns ten and heads seven and upon his horns ten diadems and upon his heads names of blasphemy.

The Origin of the Antichrist. At the middle of the Tribulation, the dragon, that is, Satan (Rev 12:9; 20:2), will be cast out of heaven to earth and will pursue Israel into the wilderness in an attempt to annihilate them. But God will supernaturally protect Israel from this vicious attack. As a result, Satan becomes furious and sets off to destroy the rest of Israel's seed that are dispersed in nations across the globe. When he begins this pursuit he will pause and pick up his next instrument of destruction, the ***beast coming up out of the sea.***ⁱ This is the second of 36 references to the ***beast*** in Revelation. The first was in Rev 11:7 where we found that his origin was the "abyss". Here he comes ***up out of the sea.*** The ***sea*** and the "abyss" are one and the same. The abyss refers to the subterranean holding place of demonic beings (such as the demonic locusts in Rev 9:1-12). In ancient thought ***the sea*** was the source of satanic monsters (Job 26:12-13; Ps 74:13-14' 87:4; Isa 27:1). So, what we have here is a picture of a monstrous person whose doctrines and practices are sourced in demons. He is the Antichrist, the satanically inspired instrument of Satan in the annihilation of Israel. This is the man who entered into a seven-year peace contract with Israel which officially marks the beginning of the 70th week of Daniel (cf Dan 9:27). He will maliciously break this contract at the mid-point of the Tribulation when he sets up the abomination of desolation in the Tribulation Temple (Matt 24:15).

What is the national descent of the Antichrist? He is of Roman descent because It was the Romans who fulfilled the prophecy of Dan 9:26 by destroying Jerusalem and the Temple after the Messiah's crucifixion.

Daniel 9:26 "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the

sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

Will he be a Roman Jew? No, he will be a Roman Gentile because he will not show regard for the “gods of his fathers”ⁱⁱ. This means he will not be a polytheist like his Gentile descendants but he will be a monotheist, worshipping himself as god.

Daniel 11:37 "He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any *other* god; for he will magnify himself above *them* all.

So, the Antichrist will be a Gentile of Roman descent. He will be the first ruler to assume what every world ruler desires; world dictatorship. In Revelation his primary title is *the beast* but he has other titles in Scripture:

1. the serpent's seed (Gen 3:15)
2. the little horn (Dan 7:8)
3. the king of fierce countenance (Dan 8:23)
4. the prince that shall come (Dan 9:26)
5. The desolator (Dan 9:27)
6. the willful king (Dan 11:36)
7. the man of lawlessness (2 Thess 2:3)
8. the son of destruction (2 Thess 2:3)
9. the lawless one (2 Thess 2:8)
10. the antichrist (1 John 2:18)
11. the beast (Rev 11:7; 13:1)
12. the scarlet beast (Rev 17:3)

The Antichrist is pictured here as having *ten horns and seven heads*. *upon* each of *his horns* is a *diadem* crown *and upon* each of *his heads* is a *name of blasphemy*. The *beast* is similar to but different than the *dragon* in chapter 12.

Beast (Antichrist)

7 heads

10 horns – 10 diadems

Dragon (Satan)

7 heads – 7 diadems

10 horns

The difference is the *number* and *location* of the diadem crowns. Satan has 7 diadems on his 7 heads but the Antichrist has 10 diadems on his 10 horns.

7 heads = 7 successive kingdoms beginning with Egypt and ending with Revived Rome

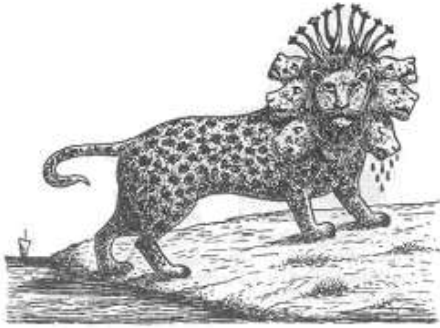
10 horns = 10 simultaneous kings of the future Revived Roman Empire

The 7 successive kingdoms are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and Revived Rome. The 10 horns are 10 simultaneous kings that rule near the end of time in the Revived Roman Empire. Satan is ultimately behind all of these kingdoms and kings (Rev 12:3). A key to identifying the parts of this beast is comparing it with the “fourth beast” of Daniel 7.



Daniel 7:23-25 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth (Revived Rome), which will be different from all the *other* kingdoms (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece) and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. ²⁴ 'As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise (10 Kings out of Revived Rome); and another will arise after them (an 11th King out of Revived Rome, namely, the Antichrist), and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. ²⁵ 'He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One (Israel), and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law (Jewish customs); and they (Israel) will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time (2nd half of the Tribulation).

Both Daniel 7:23 (“will devour the whole earth”) and Rev 13:7 (“authority over every tribe, and people, and tongue and nation”) indicate that this kingdom will be worldwide in extent. Since no kingdom has ever extended its power worldwide this kingdom is still future and both passages refer to the same kingdom, Revived Rome. In Rev 13 the 10 horns with the 10 diadems are all located on the seventh head which stands for the seventh successive kingdom, namely, the Revived Roman Empire.

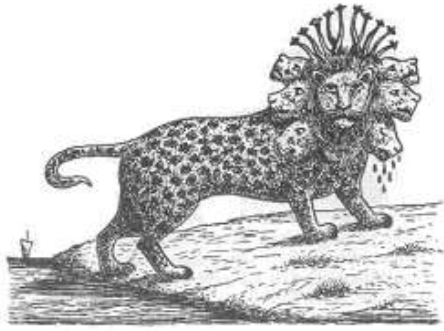


JOHN'S BEAST

This means the 10 kings will rule simultaneously over the Revived Roman Empire. This will be the state of world affairs for the first half of the Tribulation. After them an 11th king will arise (Dan 7:24). He is the *beast out of the sea* here in Revelation 13 (i.e. the Antichrist). He's not one of the 10 kings but he will gradually rise to power after them. This will take place during the first half of the Tribulation as he rides the "harlot", the one world religious system centered in a re-built Babylon (Rev 17). It's my understanding that the Antichrist will receive a death wound very near the middle of the Tribulation, probably during the battle of Gog and Magog which I see as parallel to Daniels description in Dan 11:40-45. But his death wound will be healed, that is, it will appear that he has resurrected from the dead (Rev 13:3). For all intents and purposes that is the way the world perceives it. Sometime following this the ten kings will give him their power for one hour. Since there will be no need for the "one world religious system" which he used to rise to power, he will then burn its central headquarters, the city of Babylon. Three of the kings (also cf Dan 7:8) who gave him their dominion will want it back after Babylon is destroyed but Antichrist will not relinquish control. As a result of their rebellion he will subdue them (Dan 7:24). This will all happen about the middle of the Tribulation or during the beginning of the second half. Because of his miraculous recovery from the death wound the world will marvel after the beast (Rev 13:3). He will speak blasphemies against God and wear down the Jewish people for a time, times, and half a time which is 3 ½ years and refers to the 2nd half of the Tribulation (Rev 12:14).

Daniel 11:36 "Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done.

Revelation 13:2 *And the beast that I saw was like a leopard and his feet like a bear and his mouth like a lion's mouth. And the dragon gave to him his power and his throne and great authority.*



JOHN'S BEAST

The first part of this verse describes the characteristics of the Revived Roman Empire under the Antichrist. The descriptions come from Daniel 7:2-8. In this OT passage Daniel sees a leopard symbolizing Greece, a bear symbolizing Medo-Persia, and a lion symbolizing Babylon. The *beast* who ultimately rules the final form of the Roman Empire will be a combination of the dominant characteristics of these previous Gentile kingdoms. He “epitomizes all the brilliance of Alexander the Great, the massive power of Cyrus the Great, and the autocratic royalty of Nebuchadnezzar.”ⁱⁱⁱ

Daniel 7:6 "After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. (Greece)

Daniel 7:5 "And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs *were* in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!' (Medo-Persia)

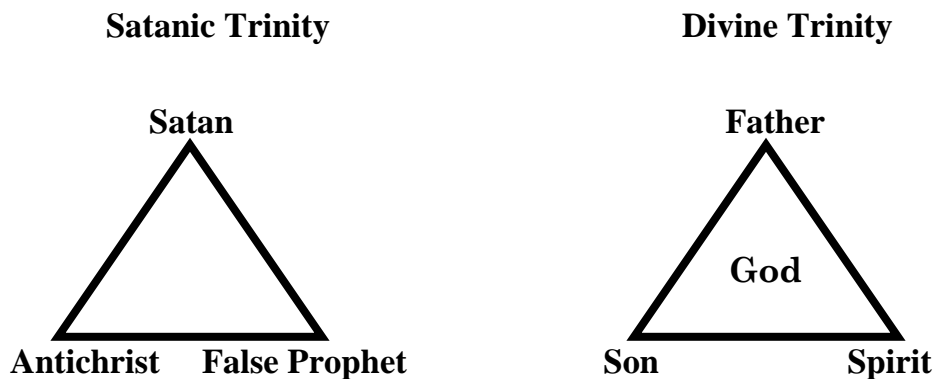
Daniel 7:4 "The first *was* like a lion and had *the* wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it. (Babylon)

Since the body of this beast is the *leopard* which signified Greece it is my contention that the major characteristic of this final kingdom under Antichrist is his brilliance, his short military career and lightning fast military campaigns.

Satan *gave him his power and his throne and great authority*. This corresponds to **Daniel 8:24** "His power will be mighty, but not by his own power, And he will destroy to an extraordinary degree And prosper and perform *his will*; He will destroy mighty men

and the holy people.” Thus, his supernatural powers will be given to him by Satan. He will also be given Satan’s throne.^{iv}

Satan will also give him *great authority*. The *authority* in the first place has been given to Satan and Satan now gives it to the Antichrist. These two form the first two members of the Unholy Satanic Trinity. The triad will be complete in 13:11 with the false prophet. It is interesting that Satan’s activity of giving power and a throne and great authority parallels the Father’s activity of giving power and a throne and great authority to His Son.



Revelation 13:3 And one of his heads was being slain (perfect passive participle) as unto death, and the wound of his death was healed (our English "therapy"). And the whole earth marveled (passive) after the beast 4 and worshipped the dragon, because he gave the power to the beast, and worshipped the beast saying, "Who is like the beast and who is able (has the power) to wage war with him?"

This is a difficult verse. If we are consistent with the figure then the heads represent kingdoms. This would mean that the Antichrist’s kingdom apparently receives a death blow but supernaturally recovers. Because of this the whole earth will marvel after the beast who rules this kingdom.^v Another view is that the *head* here is the Antichrist himself who will receive a death wound. The text uses the comparative *hos* signaling that it is “like a death wound” but probably not a “death wound”. However, the world’s perception is that he has been raised from the dead and this will serve as a counterfeit of Christ’s resurrection. In this view the *beast* (Antichrist) is also one of the *heads*, namely, the seventh head. There are three reasons this is the best view. First, it is difficult to separate a king from his kingdom. As such the final king is here identified as the final kingdom. Second, the description of Christ being slain in 13:8 uses the same Greek word used of the beast being slain except for the addition of *hos* which is why it says “as if it

had been slain”. It doesn’t say “it was slain”. Maybe the wound would normally result in death but in this unique case it does not. That’s why the text goes on to say “the death wound was **healed**.” The word **healed** is *therapeuo* from which we get “therapy” and this word is never used of a genuine resurrection anywhere in the Bible. The normal word for resurrection is *anastasis*. Nevertheless, something supernatural is involved but I think it is highly doubtful that God would permit Satan to duplicate the resurrection of Christ. Satan counterfeits God but he can’t duplicate God’s works. As such, this is a counterfeit resurrection. It appears to be a resurrection but in reality it is not what God did with Christ. Third, and all we’re showing here is that this **head slain as if to death** is an individual and not the kingdom, is Rev 13:12 and 17:8.

Revelation 13:12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.

It is not the kingdom that is worshipped but the king of that kingdom.

Revelation 17:8 "The beast that you saw was (alive), and is not (appears to die), and is about to come up (appear to resurrect) out of the abyss and go to destruction.

My understanding is that the Antichrist will receive a death wound in a military conflict^{vi} near the end of the 1st half of the Tribulation. The great military conflict which he will receive this wound is recorded in Ezek 38-39 and Dan 11:40-45 and involves the king of the north and the king of the south attacking Israel simultaneously. The Antichrist will attempt to protect Israel but will be severely injured in the battle. When Satan is kicked out of heaven at the middle of the Tribulation he will be counterfeit the resurrection and indwell the Antichrist, who will in turn, attack Israel himself. His first move will be to enter the Tribulation Temple and stop the sacrifice. This will break the covenant (Dan 9:27). Then he will proceed to persecute Israel.

The world marvels **after the beast** because of his supernatural recovery. The world **worships the dragon because he gave the power to the beast**. This is Satan worship. Demons and demon worship will be prominent during the Tribulation. The line is drawn and there is no middle ground. The world also **worships the beast** because the dragon **gave his power to the beast**. The Satanic trinity is here invoking worship which belongs to the divine trinity alone (Rev 13:12). Satan’s goal is to be worshipped as God is worshipped. He can be worshipped either directly or indirectly through the Antichrist.

"Who is like the beast and who is able (has the power) to wage war with him?" It appears that the *beast* is invincible because of the supernatural power imparted to him. At Armageddon the world's armies will join him and they will make their stand against the Lord and His anointed. The Lord will laugh at them and scoff at them and the King of kings and Lord of lords will swoop down and shatter them like earthenware (Rev 19; Ps 2). So, the final question of verse 4 is answered by saying, none are *like the beast* but the slain Lamb is more than able to take up the task of *waging war with him*.

CONCLUSION

After the dragon (Satan) and his angels were defeated by Michael and his angels he was cast out of heaven so that he could no longer accuse the brethren. Because the dragon no longer has access to heaven he can no longer prove that God's justice system is unjust, dethroning the Father and the Son and taking their place in the high court of heaven. As a result he came with great fury to earth to persecute the woman (Israel) who gave birth to the man-child (Messiah). His first act of fury will be to throw out a flood of water to drown the woman as she flees into the wilderness but they will be saved by God who will open the earth to swallow the water. In his anger he will go off to destroy the Jewish believers of the Diaspora. On the way he will stop off on the sand of the seashore to pick up his next instrument of war, the beast coming up out of the sea. The sea was the origin of satanic monsters and is identical to the abyss of Rev 11:7. The beast is one of the many titles of the Antichrist, the second member of the unholy Trinity. He has ten horns with ten diadems and seven heads with blasphemous names. The ten horns are all located on the seventh head and refer to ten kings who will rule during the seventh kingdom which is the Revived Roman Empire. So, the ten horns equal ten kings and the seven heads equal seven kingdoms that have ruled throughout history. The seven kingdoms that have ruled throughout history are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and Revived Rome. This beast is like a leopard, has feet like a bear, and a mouth like a lion. The leopard signifies Greece, the bear Medo-Persia, and the lion Babylon. The beast is thus a combination of the Greek, Medo-Persian, and Babylonian Empires. He "epitomizes all the brilliance of Alexander the Great, the massive power of Cyrus the Great, and the autocratic royalty of Nebuchadnezzar." His dominant characteristics are Greek and signify his brilliance, lightning fast military campaigns, and short military career. The dragon will give him his power and his throne and great authority as a counterfeit of God the Father giving His Son His power and His throne and His great authority. This is the kingdom of Satan against the kingdom of God. And John saw one of his heads as if it had been slain. It does not say it was slain but it appeared to have been

slain. The idea is that the head received a death wound that would normally result in death. In this unique case it does not. Obviously something supernatural takes place which enables the death wound to heal. While the heads are normally kingdoms in this case the beast is also one of the heads. One cannot separate the Antichrist from his kingdom. So, this is the Antichrist receiving a death wound near the middle of the Tribulation. Satan will counterfeit the resurrection by healing the death wound but for all intents and purposes the world will perceive this as a genuine resurrection. The result will be that the whole earth will be amazed and follow after the beast. They will also worship the dragon because he gave his power to the beast. This is direct Satan worship, what Satan has always desired is to be worshipped as God is worshipped. And the whole earth will also worship the beast. So, here we have the first look at the one world religion focusing on the worship of Satan indirectly through the Antichrist as well as directly. And the whole earth will say “Who is like the beast and who is able to wage war with him?” The answer is none are like the beast but the slain Lamb is more than able to wage war with him.

ⁱ Some say that the *sea* here refers to the Mediterranean *sea*, the area from which he will come. Others say that the *sea* often stands for the Gentile nations, showing that he is a Gentile. Thus, the Antichrist will arise in the Mediterranean region and will be a Gentile. But this leaves us hanging as to an identification of *the earth* from which the false prophet arises in 13:11.

ⁱⁱ The phrase is properly “*gods* of his fathers” (the KJV mistranslates *elohim* and renders it “God of his fathers”). Gentiles are typically polytheistic and the Jews were monotheistic. In the case of the Antichrist he will not be like his polytheistic fathers but will be like a monotheistic Jew. The only difference is that he will not worship the God of the universe but himself.

ⁱⁱⁱ R.B. Thieme, *Armageddon*, 15.

^{iv} When John saw this vision in 96AD Satan’s throne was in Pergamum. **Revelation 2:13** ‘I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; (Pergamum). Where will Satan’s throne be during the future Tribulation? There are three options. First, a rebuilt city of Babylon. Second, the whole world. Third, a combination of these. The second view is best in light of Rev 16:10. The fifth bowl darkens the whole world and not just a localized region. **Revelation 16:10** Then the fifth *angel* poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain.

^v See Tom Constable, <http://soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/revelation.pdf>

^{vi} Quite probably this great military conflict is recorded in Dan 11:40-45 and refers to the king of the north and the king of the south attacking simultaneously.

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