

BIBLE PROPHECY

The Beast with 7 Heads and 10 Horns

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In the book of Revelation, John describes a beast with 7 heads and 10 horns. Yes, it is possible to interpret what it means! God isn't going to reveal something that is impossible for us to understand. A careful examination of Scriptures reveals the interpretation. This descriptive picture symbolizes a panoramic view of kingdoms that have ruled throughout history. Let's compare the different descriptions of this beast.

Revelation 12:3—The dragon has 7 heads and 10 horns, on his heads were 7 diadems (crowns)

The dragon is interpreted as Satan (12:9). This represents Satan's dominion over the 7 world empires:

1. Egypt
2. Assyria
3. Babylon
4. Medo-Persia
5. Greece
6. Rome
7. Future Revived Roman Empire. The 10 horns are placed on this Empire, based upon Daniel 7:23-25. The 10 horns are 10 kings which arise in the future (Dan. 7:24). This is the kingdom from which the Antichrist will arise.

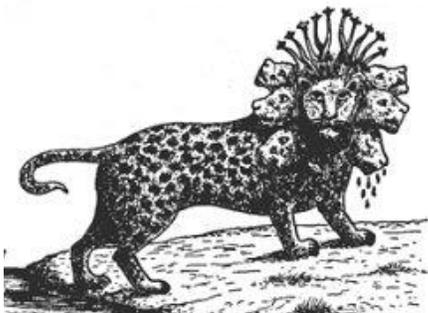
Rev. 13:3 tells us one of his heads was wounded as if slain. Some have wrongly interpreted this to mean the Antichrist will receive a head wound, appear to have died, and then come back to life. Notice it says "one" of his heads was wounded. Remember, the beast has 7 heads and only one head is wounded. Rev. 13:14 says it was wounded by a "sword."

The head that was wounded was the 6th head, Rome, which was conquered by the sword, but will come back to life in the future to become a Revived Roman Empire just before the Second Coming of Christ.

Revelation 13:1-3—The beast has 7 heads and 10 horns, on his horns were 10 diadems (crowns), and on his heads were blasphemous names.

Verse 2 describes the beast as a leopard, a bear, and a lion. These are the same beasts as described in Daniel 7:4-6, except in reverse order. Daniel was looking into the future to see these kingdoms, while the apostle John looks back on them as fulfilled in history. In this description, we get more details.

1. Egypt
2. Assyria
3. Babylon (**lion**—Daniel 7:4)
4. Medo-Persia (**bear**—Daniel 7:5)
5. Greece (**leopard**—Daniel 7:6)
6. Rome
7. Future Revived Roman Empire.



Once again, we place the 10 horns & crowns on the 7th head because of what we have already learned in Daniel 7:3-27. (Some people have drawn pictures of the 7 heads with the 10 horns & crowns distributed over all the heads, which is incorrect. The 10 horns & crowns are on one head—the 7th head or Empire)

We notice that the 10 horns now have 10 diadems (crowns) meaning the Future Revived Roman Empire has come to power and is ruling the world.

The 7 heads have blasphemous names because they have not honored God.

Revelation 17:3—Scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, have 7 heads and 10 horns.

Rev. 17:9-10 tells us the 7 heads are 7 mountains and 7 kings. "Mountains" in the Bible are symbolic of kingdoms or governments. (See Ps. 30:7, Jer. 51:24-25, Dan. 2:35,44).

Revelation 17:10-11—The 7 heads are 7 Kings

"Five have fallen" At the time John was writing Revelation, 5 kingdoms had already past:

1. Egypt
2. Assyria
3. Babylon
4. Medo-Persia
5. Greece

"One is" When John was writing, Rome was ruling the world.

6. Rome

"The other is yet to come" This refers to a future Revived Roman Empire.

7. Future Revived Roman Empire. The 10 horns are on the 7th head.

"The beast...is himself also an eighth": Dan. 7:19-25 says Antichrist will rule this empire.

8. Antichrist takes over the Revived Roman Empire.

Revelation 17:12—The 10 horns are 10 Kings

What is the difference between the 7 kings (represented by 7 heads) and the 10 kings (represented by 10 horns)? Simply this:

The 7 kings (v.10) are **successive kingdoms** because they rule one after the other over centuries of time.

The 10 kings (v.12) are **contemporaneous kings** who rule at the same time in history.

This verse tells us the 10 horns are 10 kings who "have not yet received a kingdom" when Revelation was written in 96 A.D. (They are still in the future). Because the 10 horns are on the 7th head, these 10 kings will come to power in the future Revived Roman Empire. Daniel 2:44 tells us "and in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed..." When these 10 kings are living, Jesus will return to earth at the Second Coming to set up His Millennial Kingdom.

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Making Life Count Ministries

P.O. Box 680174

Prattville, Alabama 36068

www.makinglifecount.net