REVELATION

Chapter 13

Overview

John sees two beasts, one from the sea and one from the earth, symbolizing the Antichrist and his false prophet.

I. THE BEAST OUT OF THE SEA (13:1-10): This is the Antichrist.

- A. His appearance (13:1-2)
- 1. He has ten horns (each with a crown) and seven heads (each with a blasphemous name) (13:1).
- 2. He looks like a leopard with feet like a bear and a mouth like a lion (13:2a).
- B. His authority (13:2b): It comes from Satan himself
- C. His (possible) assassination (13:3a): Some believe he will be killed and then rise from the dead.
- **D. His admiration** (13:3b-4, 8): Following this the entire world is astonished and worships him.

Meanings

- Mouth like a lion
 - Like Babylon in its one pagan religion and single language as a "return to Babel"
- Feet like a bear
 - Like Persian Empire, it devours its opponents
- Like a leopard
 - Like Greeks, it rapidly conquers and unifies the world
- Seven heads and ten horns; one head having a mortal wound that was healed
 - Like Rome, it unites remote and diverse nations under one dictator, promising peace but bringing war

Seven Heads

• The number seven in the Bible means complete and full. The antichrist will be full of ability. An unusual genius. Possessing complete knowledge and wisdom. He will be able to think, plan, act, respond, and react to situations quicker and more efficiently than any man has ever been able to do. Think about how far a person can go in political circles and other areas of influence with this ability!

Ten Horns and Crowns

- Ten horns refers to the ten nations he will rule over. In the beginning there will be ten nations, but he will take over or be given the power and rule of three which leaves seven.
- Same number of horns that the dragon(devil) had. Representing the source of the antichrist.
- Crowns, of course, mean authority and power: he will be a leader of ten nations.

I. THE BEAST OUT OF THE SEA (13:1-10): This is the Antichrist. continued

- E. His arrogance (13:5-6): For a period of forty-two months, he blasphemes God.
- F. His activities (13:7, 9-10)
- 1. Regarding God's people (13:7a, 9-10)
- a. The cruelty (13:7a, 9-10a): He persecutes and conquers them.
- b. The challenge (13:10b): They are exhorted to display endurance and faithfulness.
- 2. In regard to all people (13:7b): He rules over them.

II. THE BEAST OUT OF THE EARTH (13:11-18): This is the false prophet.

- A. His mission (13:11-12): With the appearance of a lamb but the voice of a dragon, he forces the world to worship the Antichrist.
- The beast will appear innocent, harmless, meek, attractive and lovable.
- Appearances can be deceiving
- 1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

How will you know?

- He will not be teaching God's word, but the word of the antichrist and state.
- He will not be speaking the truth; he will be speaking a lie.
- He will not the spokesman for God, but the spokesman for the government of the antichrist.
- He will not be speaking for people to support God, but for people to support the civil power.
- He will not be promoting the Lord Jesus Christ; he will be promoting the policies of the antichrist.

False Prophet

- Will hold some high position in religion
- Will be very influential and probably already known by many
- Will be very charismatic, able to effectively speak and communicate

II. THE BEAST OUT OF THE EARTH (13:11-18): This is the false prophet.

- B. His miracles (13:13, 15): He performs great miracles.
- 1. He calls down fire from heaven (13:13).
- 2. He gives life to a statue (13:14-15): This statue bears the image of the Antichrist.
- C. His mark (13:16-18)
- 1. What it is (13:18): It is the number 666.
- 2. Where it is applied (13:16): Either on the right hand or forehead.
- 3. Why it is applied (13:17): No one is able to buy, sell, etc., without it.

A Reminder of the Context

 Remember the chaotic mess of the world in the last days. There will be natural disaster after natural disaster: earthquakes, violent storms, and famine will be sweeping the earth in record numbers, unparalleled in human history. There will be diseases and pestilences unheard of. In addition, nation after nation will be wrecked with war and rumors of war and violent overthrowing of governments and terrorists actions. There is the sinful and evil behavior of man. There will be an enormous increase in drugs, assaults, murders, rapes, immorality; divorce, stealing, witchcraft, and on and on. The world will be in a chaotic upheaval. There will be a social crisis all over the world. People will be frantic for some answers, for some leader to appear on the scene who can help and brings some order.