

## **Revelation 13 (NASB)**

### **The Beast from the Sea**

*13:1 And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.*

Some versions start this chapter out by saying, "I stood ... " but the correct translation is "He stood". This beast is not Satan. Revelation 12:3 and 9 describe Satan as a dragon. This beast is not called Satan. The sand of the shore may represent Gentile nations or the Mediterranean Sea. In the word "antichrist", "anti" means "against" and not the "opposite of" Christ. The Antichrist has other names. Daniel 7:8 calls him Little Horn. Daniel 8:23 calls him fierce king. In Daniel 9:26, the Antichrist is the ruler or prince to come. John 5:43 says he is the one who comes in his own name. 2 Thessalonians 2:3 refers to him as the man of lawlessness and the son of destruction. The seven diadems on the dragon's head in Revelation 12:3 represent Satan's strength and power. The ten crowns on the beast's head represent a confederation of ten nations. The beast represents a man. We know that the beast is a man because a personal pronoun is used, "his" and not "they". (See 2 Thessalonians 2:4, Daniel 7:25, Daniel 8:24 -25 and Revelation 13:1.)

*13:2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.*

From this verse, we again can know that this beast is not Satan because he receives his power from the dragon which is Satan. This beast comes out of the abyss. Revelation 11:7 tells us "*When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them.*" Revelation 17:8 calls it the abyss or the pit or darkness.

*13:3 I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast;*

The beast does not have a mortal wound. Only one of the ten horns is mortally wounded. The phrase "as if" is used in Revelation 5:6 and it is used to describe the Jews. This verse says " This beast received a mortal wound so that the entire world would believe that he has the same power as Jesus (resurrection) 2 Thessalonians 2:9 tells us "*that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders*". Most theologians think this beast represents the "revived Roman empire". Rome was never defeated totally it merely fell apart. This man will most likely be the head of the revived Roman Empire.

*13:4 they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?"*

It is stated for the second time that the beast gets his power from the dragon or Satan. Now the people don't just worship the beast, they also worship the dragon which is Satan. These people worship them because they refuse God and accept the mark of the beast. 2 Thessalonians 2:10 says "*and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.*" This verse completes Satan's plan in Isaiah 14:14, '*I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.*' The people worship the beast based on his perceived power. Since his power comes from Satan it is nothing like the power of Jesus.

*13: 5 There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.*

God allowed the beast to speak but He gave him a limited time of 42 months or 3.5 years to speak. (Daniel 4:25 and 32). This is end times prophecy. (Daniel 7:25 and Daniel 11:36) The beast is allowed to rule for 3 ½ years.

*13:7 It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.*

The events in chapter 13 take place during the second half of the Tribulation. Revelation 7:3 says “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.” Revelation 11:3 tells us that “And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” Both of these events happen in the second half of the Tribulation during the interlude.

We can prove that the Rapture will occur based on Matthew 16:18 and Revelation 7. The verse in Matthew tells us that God’s church will not be overpowered by Satan. Revelation 7 tells us that there is a multitude of believers from every nation in Heaven clothed in white robes. The 144,000 Jews will evangelize unbelievers during the Tribulation. Believers lose their lives but not their salvation. If your name is written in the Book of Life, you will not give in to Satan during the Tribulation. Names can be blotted from the book. Paul tells us in Ephesians 1:4, “just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.” Matthew 25:34 says that Jesus will speak to believers to “inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” These verses indicate that the names are written in the Book of Life from creation. The failure of Adam and Eve was not a surprise to God. He has known everything from the beginning of time (1 Peter 1:20). The names can be taken out of the Book of Life. In Exodus 32:31-33, Moses asked that his name be blotted out of the Book of Life. Verse 33 says “The Lord said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.” Revelation 22:19 says that “if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.” Revelation 3:5 says that if we overcome our name will not be erased from the Book of Life. It appears that our names are there and if we deny Christ our names are removed.

*13:9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10 If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.*

“He who has an ear, let him hear” is repeated 16 times in the New Testament. In all previous times, it is said, it is followed by the words “What the Spirit says to the churches. This tells us that the churches are gone. Rapture has occurred and we are up in heaven. These verses uphold capital punishment (die by the sword), as opposed to liberal ideology. People will be saved during the Tribulation period. This verse confirms it, “Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.”

### ***The Beast from the Earth***

*13:11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.*

This is not the same beast from Revelation 13:1. The horns are different. This beast has two horns like a lamb. The beast in Revelation 13:1 had *“ten horns and seven heads”*. Some say this beast is an institution or form of government. The word “another” here is ‘allos’ and means another of the same kind. Revelation 19:20 says *“these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire”*. One beast comes from the sea and the other from the earth. This beast is the false prophet who is subordinate to the first beast who is under Satan. The order is Satan > Antichrist > fake prophet. This false prophet will speak like Satan. Our enemies will be nice to your face but will stab you in the back.

*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. 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who \*had the wound of the sword and has come to life. 15 And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.*

This first beast simply blasphemes God. This False Prophet will encourage people to follow the beast and makes statues of his image. The specific miracle that this beast performs is described in verse 13. Verse 13 says *“he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.”* This could be literal or merely a deception. This specific miracle was listed because it is the same one performed by Elijah (1 Kings 18:36-38) and the two prophets (Revelation 11:5). Miracles do not prove God’s acceptance or power. We are warned that God can use this power to test us. (Deuteronomy 13:1-3) The end of these deceivers will be when Jesus tells them *‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’*. They will be driven out of Jesus’ presence. (Matthew 7:23) In Matthew 24:24, Jesus warned of this very thing. It says *“For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”* In 2 Thessalonians 2:9, Paul also warned of it, Paul wrote *“The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie.”* The marks of a Christian are not signs and wonders but are instead truth and love. (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10). The phrase “Those who dwell on the earth” refer to unbelievers. (Revelation 17:8)

This beast will perform signs and wonders like never before. Jesus warns about this in Mark 13:22. The phrase “to deceive, if possible, even the elect” means true believers cannot be deceived. (1 John 2:19 and 26 and John 10:-27-28). Deceiving the world will be a part of Satan’s deception and God’s judgment. God will confuse those who heard His Word and denied Him. Even King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon set up an image of himself and demanded that it be worshiped in Daniel’s day. (Daniel 3:2) The elect were not deceived. (Daniel 3:16-18)

*13:16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, 17 and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.*

Verse 17 tells us that people must take the “mark” (666) of the beast to exchange money or buy and sell things. The word “mark” is ‘charagma’ and is the same word as ‘tato’ (carvings) branding. It is the same word used to imprint Roman coins. The elect won’t receive the mark because they have already received the mark or seal of Christ. Refusing to accept the mark of the beast results in death during the Tribulation. Hebrew and Greek writers ascribed numbers to letters. For example – A=1, B=2, C=3 . . .

*13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.*

There are at least two possible meanings of the number 666. You have 6 letters in Roman numerals that when added together equals 666. Also, it may represent the Unholy Trinity. This verse does show that the beast will be a man and not a form of government or religion.

Chapter 13 ends with things going well for Satan, Antichrist and the False prophet. People are still refusing to bow down and accept Jesus as the Christ.