

Chapter 13

The Beast out of the Sea

- In Chapter 12, we mentioned four of the seven leading performers in events of the Great Tribulation: Woman - Israel; Dragon - Satan; Man-child - 144,000 sealed Jews; and the Archangel - Michael. There are two others mentioned here in Rev.13: 'Beast out of the sea' (Antichrist), and 'Beast out of the earth' (False Prophet).
- 'Nowhere in the Bible can we find a more vivid description of the Antichrist and his cruel reign than in this chapter. This is perhaps one of the darkest chapters the Holy Spirit has permitted to be penned' (H.L. Moore).

I. 'A Beast rises up out of the sea' (v.1). 'In prophecy, 'sea' signifies 'Gentiles', or 'nations' (Larkin). 'The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt' (Isa.57:20). Montgomery believes the 'sea' represents the 'wavering, corrupt sea of politics', because of the political power that is given the beast immediately upon his arrival on the scene.

- A. This 'beast' speaks of a man, who will be head of the final world government (8th) before Christ returns to earth (Ch.19) to set up His kingdom. Notice:
 - In Dan.8, he is called 'King of fierce countenance'.
 - In Dan.9, the 'Prince that shall come'.
 - In Dan.11, the 'willful king'.
 - In II Thes., the 'man of sin'.
 - In I Jn.2, the 'Antichrist'.
- B. 'Seven heads' - represent the 7 World Empires which blaspheme God and detest Jews: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the coming Revived (revised) Roman Empire (represented by the 10 toes of Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Dan.2). **Note**: 'The kingdoms of the Revived (or Revised) Roman Empire will make up the seventh head' (Seiss).
 - These are kings, or kingdoms, coexistent with Israel from her beginning to the 8th kingdom' (Dake). (I agree.)
 - Some believe the 7 heads represent 7 kings of the ancient Roman Empire (Nero, Domitian, etc.).
- C. Ten crowned horns - represent the 10 kings of Revised Roman Empire. Some have called this the 'United States of Europe'. **Note**: After the Church is raptured, a 'Peace Plan' will be presented for the Middle-eastern region, and will be accepted, not only by Israel and the 10 kings, but, undoubtedly, by many others of the region. The 10 kings will give their power to the one who presents the 'peace plan', and he will become the one known as the Antichrist. Thus, we see that the 'beast out of the sea' has 10 horns, and the horns are crowned.
- D. Appearance of the 'beast'. Has characteristics of a leopard, a bear, and a lion (Dan.7:4-6).
 - a. Leopard: 'Fierce, graceful, swift conquest of power' (Moore). This corresponds with the third beast of Dan.7:6, and represents the Grecian Empire, with Alexander the Great its head. **Note**: This is 'revived Greece'.

- b. Feet of a Bear. 'Greed, selfishness, brute force' (Moore). Corresponds with second beast of Dan.7:5 (Medo-Persian Empire).
- c. Mouth of a Lion. Corresponds with first beast of Dan.7:4 (Babylon and its king - Nebuchadnezzar).
- Daniel saw these same three beasts, but in reverse order. The reason: Daniel stood at the beginning of the Gentile Age, looking forward; while John stands at its end, looking back. **Note**: The Antichrist will have all of these characteristics. Too, Satan will give him his power, his seat, and great authority. Antichrist will be the closest to an incarnation of Satan found in Scripture.

II. 'One of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed' (v.3).

- Many believe that Antichrist, the man, will be slain, and then resurrected.
- J.A. Seiss (Apocalypse). 'A man who once lived, but was fatally wounded.'
- G.F. Taylor (The Rainbow). 'A man who once lived, now dead, but will ascend out of hell.'
- Clarence Larkin (Dispensational Truth). 'Had been before on earth; to come again; ascend from Bottomless Pit.'
- Charlene West (Closeout of the Ages). 'Lived in past; not alive when John wrote; who, at his appointed time, will rise up'.
- Others believe there will be a 'counterfeit imitation resurrection', which will be the 'great delusion', the 'Big Lie', of the Tribulation.
- 'Whether he comes up again in literal bodily resurrection or only by means of an obsession of some living man, we may not be able to decide. Whatever the mode, it will be, in effect, the same as a resurrection' (Seiss).
- Scofield and O. Green: This speaks of the fall of the Roman Empire's 'imperial form of government' (AD476). And here, its restoration, with the 'healed head' being the Emperor, or, the Beast. (I disagree with all of these.)

Note: This is not speaking of Antichrist (a man) being killed and then raised from the dead. Satan doesn't have resurrection power. ('Jesus is the 'resurrection and the life' (Jn.1;25). Too, Heb.9:27 says, 'It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment').

- This is undoubtedly speaking of the 'Grecian Empire', as mentioned in Rev.17:8.

Read: Rev.17:3, 8-14.

- It is not the 'Beast' that will be 'wounded unto death' and 'resurrected' from the dead, but one of the heads is wounded to death and is healed. **Note**: There will be no resurrection of evil and ungodly men before the Great White Throne Judgment. Only Christ can raise the dead, of both saved and unsaved. Satan has no power to raise the dead. He is not a life-giver, but a devil, a destroyer, and, a death-dealer.

III. 'And all the world wondered after the beast'.

The reason: He has brought 'peace' between Israel and its neighbors, with Jews, once again, worshipping in their Temple, living in prosperity and peace. But then comes 'sudden destruction'.

IV. 'And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast, and they worshipped the beast' (V.4-6).

'This is the supreme moment for Satan, as he has directed all his energies toward this goal. The religions of the world are marching toward this dark day of total devil worship' (McGee). **Note:** Men will not flee from the Antichrist, but love and worship him. The world is looking for a superhuman, and this, seemingly, will 'fit their bill', their 'idol'.

- The Antichrist declares himself to be 'deity' and possesses the supernatural power of the demonic world (II Thes.2:4,9). Because of that, he will be worshipped.
 - 'The religion of the Antichrist teaches the doctrine of the 'divinity of man'. Instead of the truth that in Christ God became man (Jn.1:14), he speaks the lie that in himself humanity has and can become God (II Thes.2:4)' (F. Life Study Bible). **Note:** The present-day 'New Age' teaching emphasizes this doctrine of Antichrist, and is, undoubtedly, preparing the masses for its ultimate acceptance.
 - This will be the darkest times in all of world history. The beast is a 'world dictator', and the inhabitants of the earth worship him - with exception of those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life (V.8).
- A. He is given power over all kindreds, tongues and nations (Vs.7-10).
- These verses contain a 'warning' to anyone who dares fight against the Beast with physical force. This is the 'Dragon's Day', and the 'Beast's Hour'. God is letting this world leader go the limit. But, remember: God is still in control.
 - 'Patience, which means suffering and faith, is the password of the day for God's saints in this hour of earth's travail and hell's holiday' (McGee).
Note: Some teach that the Tribulation will be localized in the land of Israel only. But these verses tell a different story. Antichrist will rule the world.
 - Antichrist will have power over the saints (those saved after the 'Rapture'), and they will suffer for their faith.
- B. It will not be Communism or Atheism or Catholicism or some faction of the Islamic faith that will be the religious power of that day, but Christianity, so-called. They will not teach the necessity of being born-again, or of believing the Bible, or of living holy - but will be an Apostate Religion, an Antichrist counterfeit. And the truth of the matter is: it is taking place, even today.
Note: It's been said, 'Since Antichrist pretends to be the Messiah (Christ), and is worshipped by the world, then his followers must be professing Christians'.

Who is the Antichrist? From whence does he come?

Since the Prophet Daniel tells us more about the Antichrist than the Apostle John (in Revelation) - we much go to the Book of Daniel.

I. Chapter 2 gives a picture of the 'World Empires of the Ages', all, of which, have been (and will be) anti-God and anti-Jewish. **Note:** Before Daniel's day, there had been two world empires: Egypt and Assyria.

- Verses 1-13 tell us that in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign (as king of Babylon), he had a dream. (This was some two or three years after Daniel, and others, were taken into captivity.) The next morning, being unable to remember the dream, Nebuchadnezzar was perplexed, so he called for his 'wise men' (magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, Chaldeans) to tell the dream, with the interpretation. They were unable to do so. Therefore, because of their inability to tell and interpret the dream, the king commanded that all the wise men of Babylon (including Daniel and his three Hebrew friends) to be destroyed.
- vs. 14-18. When Daniel received the 'news', he, along with his three friends, went to God in prayer asking that the dream and its interpretation be revealed to them.
- vs. 19-30. God reveals to Daniel the dream and interpretation.
- vs.31-42. Daniel tells the dream and interpretation to the king. (An 'image' representing four world empires: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.) Notice: The 'image' digresses from 'gold' to 'clay', a downward route. And, today, after some 2600 years, things continue in that same direction - not getting better, but steadily worse.

II. Chapter 7. Daniel had a 'vision' during the first year of Belshazzar (grandson of Nebuchadnezzar) - sometime about 555BC.

- vs.1-8. Four Great Beasts.
- A. First Beast like a 'Lion' (v.4), which corresponds to the 'Head of Gold' (Babylon) in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The 'eagle's wings' speak of the 'quickness' of the conquests of King Nebuchadnezzar.
- B. Second Beast like a 'Bear' (v.5). Cruel, having a thirst for blood and a love for spoils. Medo-Persia. **Note:** It's believed that the largest species of bear is that which is found in Persia.
 - 'Three ribs in its mouth'. Medo-Persian Empire conquered three mighty nations: Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt.
- C. Third Beast like a 'Leopard' (v.6). Greece. **Note:** A 'leopard' is known for its 'swiftness'. And while still a young man, Alexander the Great, King of Greece, conquered the known world.
 - 'four heads' - speaks of the four divisions of the Grecian Empire into which it was divided after the death of Alexander the Great: Greece, Turkey, Syria, and Egypt.
- D. Fourth Beast (vs.7,8) - dreadful, terrible, and strong - 'with great iron teeth'. Rome.
 - Interpretation is found in vs.15-28. **Note:** The fourth kingdom (v.23) speaks of the fourth power to rule the known world, beginning with Daniel's day: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.

III. Chapter 8. Daniel's Vision of the 'Ram' and 'He Goat'.

- Vs.3,4. Ram with two horns. God lets Daniel know that the Babylonian Empire will be over-thrown. Too, Daniel is told 'who' it is that will become the next world empire.
- A. One horn higher than the other, etc. Darius (Mede) was first. And Cyrus (Persian) was last - but stronger.
 - a. V.5. 'He Goat with a notable horn'. This is Alexander the Great (v.21), a Macedonian taught by Aristotle, and a brilliant military strategist. **Note:** He devised the military plan of the 'Phalanx', and although out-numbered 20 to 1 defeated the Medes and Persians. In 13 short years he conquered the known world, and died a drunkard with malaria at age 33.
 - b. 'The great horn was broken' (v.8). Alexander the Great died, and his Kingdom was divided among his four generals (v.22): Cassander (Greece), Lysimachus (Turkey), Seleucus (Syria), and Ptolemy (Egypt).

Note: In Daniel's first vision (Ch.7), the 'Fourth Beast' had 10 horns; and a 'little horn' came up among them - Antichrist. Here in Ch.8:9, Antichrist is shown to come out of one of the four kingdoms into which the Grecian Empire was divided upon the death of Alexander the Great: Greece, Turkey, Syria, or Egypt.

- c. 'It (the little horn) waxed great, even to the host of heaven' (v.10). **Note:** The term 'host of heaven' is used some 475 times in Scripture, meaning: persons organized for battle, armies of earth or heaven, heavenly planets, stars, etc. Here, in this instance, it is speaking of religious leaders (high priest, priests, and Levites). It is a technical term for the ministries of the Temple.

IV. Chapter 11. History of 'World Empires' from time of Darius to the Antichrist. Read: Vs.36-45.

V. Chapter 10. Daniel's Vision of God's Glory.

- After fasting and praying 21 days, a man (angelic being) appeared to Daniel letting him know that his prayers had been heard, and, that he had been sent to help Daniel understand (v.12).
- Vs.13-21 are very important in understanding from whence the Antichrist will come.

The Beast out of the Earth

I. He has 'two horns like a lamb' (lamb-like; imitates Christ, whom John the Baptist called the 'Lamb of God'). His lamb-like horns signify his attempt to deceive by portraying himself as a loving, caring, peaceful, and gentle person. Yet, in reality, his character is not like that of a 'lamb', but of a 'dragon'. He is the 'False Prophet' - a man. He doesn't come to do his own will, or to carry out his own agenda, but to do the will of the 'first beast' (Antichrist). **Note:** His ministry, in some ways, will counterfeit the supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit (II Thes.2:9,10).

- He will direct the world to worship the Antichrist (v.12).
- 'He doeth great wonders' (v.13), through which many will be deceived. **Note:** Jesus said (Matt.24:24), 'For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch that, if it were possible they shall deceive the very elect'.
- A. Calls fire down from heaven before men. (Counterfeiting God and His work.)
- B. Causes men to make an image of Antichrist to be worshipped. (**Ex.** Nebuchadnezzar - Dan.3:6).

- C. Gives life to the 'image' (a lying miracle). (**Ex.** The magicians of Egypt turned waters into blood (Exo.7:20-22).
- D. Causes everyone to worship the image - or be put to death.

Note: It's believed by many that the 'first beast' comes up out of the 'political sea', while this 'second beast' arises out of the 'religious earth'. **Note:** McGee believes this 'second beast' must come from Israel. (I can find no scriptural evidence for such.)

II. The identity of the 'second beast' (False Prophet). There are many theories:

- Semiramis (Nimrod's wife), since these two were the great leaders in the first of the world's sovereign powers' (G.F. Taylor).
- King Saul
- Judas Iscariot, because of his 'bishopric' as a disciple of Christ prior to his 'fall' (Seiss).
- Pope of the Roman Catholic Church.
- The 'World Church', brought about through the agency of the United Nations and World Council of Churches. (I disagree with all of these.)

I don't know who he might be, but I believe he will be a prominent religious leader of his day, one who will help bring about the 'marriage' of the 'World Church' and 'World Government'. He weds religion and business. I definitely do not believe he will be a resurrected person.

Note: The 'dragon' (Satan) is counterfeit of God (Anti-God); the 'ten-horned beast' is counterfeit of the Son (Antichrist); and the 'two-horned beast' (proceeding from and operating in the interest of both Satan and Antichrist), is the Anti-Holy Ghost. Together, they make up 'Hell's Trinity in Unity'.

Our world is fast becoming accustomed to a 'Global Economy', a 'Centralized Government', a 'One World Government'. **Note:** The United Nations is surely a forerunner of such.

- At middle of Tribulation, the Antichrist will take complete control as the 'World Leader' (as final 'World Dictator'), ruling the 8th World Empire: (1) Egypt, (2) Assyria, (3) Babylon, (4) Medo-Persia, (5) Greece, (6) Rome, (7) Revised Roman Empire (Ten toes of Daniel's dream in Dan.2:42-45; Rev.17:12-17), (8) Antichrist.
- All governments of the ages have had 'two elements': Political and Religious. And the empire of Antichrist will consist of these two elements, as well. He will be the world's 'political leader', while the False Prophet will be the world's 'religious leader' - doing the bidding of the Antichrist.

The Mark of the Beast

There are numerous theories as to this 'mark' ('what' it is; 'when', exactly, will it be given; 'how' it is to be given; 'to whom' will it be given; etc.).

I. The 'Mark' will be a sign of 'confederation'. Everything will be centralized with this world dictator.

Note: Today's corporations, labor unions, organizations, etc., are requiring participants to receive passwords, badges, cards, numbers, etc., as signs of 'confederation'. Without doubt, the Antichrist will find it easy to persuade men to receive his 'mark' of confederation.

- Some 50 years ago, a newspaper columnist wrote an article entitled, 'Living by the Numbers' deploring the fact that we have to carry so many different cards in our wallets. He concluded with the following paragraph: 'It would simplify matters if the government would assign each of us a single all-purpose number, which we could have tattooed across the forehead, to spare us the trouble of carrying all those cards' (McGee).

II. The 'Mark' as an 'outward profession of religion'.

As Christians, we have certain ceremonies, rites, and sacraments which are outward professions of our belief in Christ (Water baptism, Communion, etc.). Many will receive the 'mark of the beast' as their 'confession' of the deity of Antichrist. **Note:** Paul tells us, 'God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness' (II Thes.2:11,12).

III. The 'Mark' will be a 'necessity'.

- 'Just as men join unions for mutual help in our day, men will receive the 'mark' because of the necessities of life' (Taylor). 'No man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark' (Rev.13:17).
- The Antichrist government will have the power to make such a law, and, to enforce it.
Note: It's been said: 'Hungry men will do most anything for food'.

IV. Various ideas concerning the 'Mark':

- 'It will be a literal, visible, indelible badge stamped upon the flesh. We have heard of masters branding their slaves, and herdsmen their cattle - this is similar' (Taylor).
- It will be a visible irremovable mark - such as a tattoo.
- It will probably be a 'laser tattoo', visible only to those with infrared lighting. (I disagree with all of these.)
- 'The 'mark' seems to mean a name, the letters of which, when regarded as numerals, total 666' (Halley). **Ex.** Iranaeus, a pupil of Polycarp, who was a pupil of the Apostle John, understood the '666' to be the Greek word 'Lateinos' (L-30, A-1, T-300, E-5, I-10, N-50, O-70, S-200. They total 666. **Note:** Lateinos means 'Latin Kingdom'. The Papal Rome (Catholicism) made Latin its official language, and it still is. Roman Catholicism's canons, missals, prayers, decrees, bulls, blessings, cursings - are all in Latin. - President Clinton proposed a 'Health Care Card' with a 'micro-computer chip' embedded within. Actually, it would be a 'National Identity Card', a device capable of tracking and controlling the lives of everyone.
- Some have suggested 'a syringe-implanted ID transponder biochip' be placed under the skin. A tiny microchip the size of a grain of rice is simply injected under the skin of a person's 'right hand'. Not only would chips replace cash, checks, and credit cards, but will supplant all existing forms of identification (i.e. passports, driver's licenses, health care cards, social security cards, etc.). Such as this is already being utilized in some parts of the world. (I believe the 'mark' will be something similar in the day of Antichrist and False Prophet.) **Note:** In Spain: dogs and cats are required by law to have microchip implants injected into their skin. The system is also used in the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Great Britain, Belgium, Ireland, New York City, and California.

What some others say:

- 'No one knows what the 'mark' will be. Verse 18 simply means that '6', and multiples of '6' are used as a picture of the highest and best man can do without God' (Rice).
- '666 is the number of a man, and stops short of the perfect number '7' (Larkin).

- 'There are three different brands of Antichrist: (1) A 'mark' - possibly the emblem of his kingdom. (2) The name of the beast - unknown, and (3) '666', the number of his name. The letters in the name of the Antichrist will have a numerical value of '666'.
- 'The 'mark' is an index to the character of Antichrist - not three brands as discussed by Dake, but a symbol which is a mark, a name, and a number all at the same time. The number '6', itself, is significant of evil. It is the devil's number. And the number '666' is made up of three sixes, a trinity of evil - the symbol of the Trinity of Hell' (Taylor).
- '666' is coming! In 1974, a strange new 'mark' began appearing on products. Now, virtually every product on the market has that familiar UPC barcode. And the interesting part is: On every UPC barcode there are three embedded numbers . . . 6-6-6.

Note: Since Antichrist will not come until the Church is raptured, and until after the formation of 10 kingdoms inside the Old Roman Empire, and until the beginning of Daniel's 70th Week - we can know that no man will receive this 'mark', his name, or the number of his name before the last three and one-half years of the Tribulation begins.

V. The results of taking the 'mark', or, of refusing to take it.

- Rev.13:15. A decree will be given to kill all who refuse to worship the world ruler and his image. In reality, many who resist the Antichrist and remain faithful to Jesus Christ will pay for their faith with their lives.
- And, remember: Without the 'mark', no man might buy or sell (V.17). And that means: no jobs, no income, no food purchases, etc. Not a bright future at all. Yet, those who take the 'mark' are doomed for eternity.
- The only hope for those not ready for the 'rapture', those 'left behind', is to repent, be saved, and refuse to take the 'mark', even if it means death.
- During the 'tribulation', the 144,000 of Rev.11 will be proclaiming the Gospel - and a multitude will turn to the Lord. Too, at this same time, an angel will fly in the midst of the heavenlies proclaiming the everlasting gospel.
- But remember: No one can accept Christ as Savior unless the 'Spirit of God' gives an invitation to be saved. For multitudes 'left behind' at the 'rapture', it will be too late. Today is the day of salvation (II Cor.6:2).