

## Revelation 13

**How does chapter 13 begin?** The dragon (Satan) was standing on the shore of the sea. **What did John see coming out of the sea (v. 1)?** A beast. The implication is that the dragon summoned the beast out of the sea as part of his plan to destroy the rest of the woman's offspring (12:17).<sup>1</sup>

**What did the beast look like (v. 2)?** He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name probably some form of the name of God, i.e. he was claiming to be God. This speaks of more than the beast's message; it speaks of his character.

**Who is the beast?** The Antichrist. **What does the title Antichrist mean?** The prefix *anti* may mean "the opposite of" or "instead of." He will look wonderful, be charming and successful. He will be the ultimate winner, and appear as an angel of light. In this sense, the Antichrist will be a satanic version of the messiah.

**What animals is the Antichrist compared to (v. 2)?** He resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. In Daniel these three animals represented three kingdoms that previously ruled the world: Greece ([Daniel 7:6](#)), Medo-Persia ([Daniel 7:5](#)), and Babylon ([Daniel 7:4](#)). The fourth kingdom that Daniel described ([Daniel 7:23](#)) includes Antichrist's kingdom.<sup>2</sup> Thus the Beast is a composite of all the beasts or empires throughout human history that have gone against God and His people.

**Where did this beast get his power (v. 2)?** From Satan. This is a powerful reminder of Satan's control, though it is limited. Ultimately, God has granted him this power as He did in the case of Job. In vv. 5-8, it becomes clear that Satan and the Antichrist can't do a single thing without permission from God.

**What mark was on the Antichrist (v. 3)?** The scar of a fatal head wound. Most likely the Beast is killed (assassinated by a sword/knife, v. 14) and brought back to life. The recovery of the beast from a mortal head wound increases his fame and authority (all the world marveled and followed the beast).

**How did the people respond to the beast (v. 3)?** Astonished by him, they followed and worshipped him. The Antichrist not only rules, he is idolized. Our present celebrity culture shows us how easily that could happen.

**Why did they respond like this (v. 4)?** They were amazed at the power of the beast and believed he was so mighty that he could not be conquered. They asked, *Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?* For a time, the Antichrist will look like a tremendous *winner*.

**What did the beast do (vv. 5-6)?** He opened his mouth to blaspheme God and to slander His name and His dwelling place and those who live in heaven which means he spoke against those who were taken in the rapture, and are therefore out of his reach. He will "blaspheme" God by claiming to be God ([2 Thessalonians 2:4](#)).<sup>3</sup>

**How long did this continue?** 42 months. The period of the Great Tribulation. Note that he only has authority to act for 42 months. This is a powerful reminder that God limits the extent of evil. God has permitted evil, yet from the beginning He planned the ultimate remedy for overcoming evil.....the sacrificial death of His Son.

**What did the Antichrist do to the saints (v. 7)?** He was given power to make war against the saints and overcome them (i.e. kill them, v. 15). Through this victory, he will become a worldwide dictator ([Daniel 7:21, 23](#)) and the entire world will worship him. No other ruler has ever been able to rule the entire world. This is Satan's ultimate goal.....to be worshipped as God.

**Over whom did the Antichrist have authority (v.8)?** Over every tribe, people, language and nation. He will rule over the entire known world of that day.

**Who worshipped him (v. 8)?** All the inhabitants of the earth -- all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb. The Book of Life contains the names of all God's redeemed people ([Revelation 20:15](#)). The idea is that worshipping the beast and having your name in the Book of Life are mutually exclusive.

**"The Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world."** This deeply meaningful title for Jesus reminds us that God's plan of redemption was set in place before He even created the beings who would be redeemed. God wasn't "surprised" by any of this. God isn't making the story up as He goes along. It is all going according to plan.

**What is the meaning of v. 10?** This verse is a promise of justice. It is a reminder that Christians are not to take up arms and fight but to submit to the sovereignty of God and to be faithful unto death (2:10). God calls us to accept our fates without resisting. Much like Stephen (Acts 7). The emphasis here is that there are no accidents, what God has destined will happen.

**What did John see next (v. 11)?** Another beast. **Where did he come from?** Out of the earth **How is this beast described?** He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. **Who is he?** The False Prophet. With a combination of the dragon, the beast from the sea, and this beast from the land we now have an unholy trinity.

**What did the False Prophet do (v. 12)?** Made the earth and its inhabitants worship the Antichrist, whose fatal wound had been healed. The beast rising from the earth is essentially a Satanic prophet, who leads the world to worship the beast and the dragon. The False Prophet will be Antichrist's effective agent in directing the persecution of believers. This will be a satanic counterfeit of the Holy Spirit's ministry of pointing people to Christ.<sup>4</sup>

**What signs can he do (v. 13)?** Great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. To the deceived world, this puts the False Prophet in the class of Elijah (1 Kings 18). His signs are powerful to the point that he deceived the inhabitants of the earth (v. 14).

**What did he tell people to do (v. 14)?** He ordered them to set up an image, an inanimate object, in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

**What was He was given power to do (v. 15)?** To give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. The False Prophet will use a deceptive, animated image as the focus point of the worship of the beast. The image of the beast is animated in some way, in that it has breath and can speak, perhaps as a bionic humanoid or robot. The False Prophet will be the Antichrist's "Minister of Propaganda."<sup>5</sup> **What will happen to those who will not worship the image (v. 15)?** They will be killed.

**What form of identification were people given (v. 16)?** A mark on their right hand or forehead. This branding of unbelievers corresponds to the sealing of God's servants in chapter 7. It probably will begin early in the Great Tribulation shortly after the sealing of the 144,000. Those who receive this mark will do so willingly.<sup>6</sup>

**Why was this identification important (v. 17)?** No one could buy or sell unless he had the mark. Think about it.....no food, gas, electricity, home, car, clothes. The mark of the beast is evidently a brand-like logo, possibly similar to a tattoo that will identify beast-worshippers and will permit them to buy and sell. There will be enormous pressure to be marked! But many Tribulation saints will not take the mark of the beast (7:3; 14:1, 9-11).<sup>7</sup>

**What number does the Beast have (v. 18)?** 666. The identity of the False Prophet and the significance of his number/name will remain a mystery until he actually appears and fulfills prophecy.

While at the present time it seems unthinkable that such a state of affairs could occur, we must remember that we are only 80 years removed from the rise of Hitler and Stalin, and it is pure arrogance to think something similar could not happen again. If anyone could solve the terrorist crises, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and the unrest in Africa, and bring peace to our troubled world, people would rush to worship such a person. As Francis Schaffer said, "People will give up freedom to gain security." That is the basis for the rise of dictators in a lot of cases. This is the time when people shout "Peace and safety!" and the Antichrist promises it to them (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3).<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Thomas L. Constable, Notes on Revelation, 2017 Edition (published by <http://planobiblechapel.org/soniclight/>), p. 141

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. p. 143

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p. 144

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. p. 148

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. p. 149

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. p. 150

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Keith Krell, Live Like You're Leaving: Revelation, Copyright ©2003, Bible.org