

“The Mystery of the Woman and the Beast” Part 1
A Brief History of the Beast
Revelation 17:7-11

Revelation #39

The angel explains to John the meaning of the woman and the beast, first relating a brief history of the beast.

1. The Beast’s Origin and Destiny

v. 8a

(1) His defeat emphasized!

“The beast that you saw was, and is not...”

- The three-fold description of God (1:8; 4:8; 11:16; 16:5) is re-applied to the beast!

God: “Who is and who was... and who is to come”

The beast: “Who was and is not...and (will go) to perdition”

(2) His dark and evil origin

“The beast...will ascend out of the bottomless pit”

- cf. 9:2; 11:7
- His personal incarnation apparently in view

(3) His sure and abrupt judgment

“The beast...will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition.”

2. The Beast’s Worldwide Influence

v. 8b

(1) The whole world deceived!

“And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see

- The earth dwellers marvel! cf. 13:3-8
- They marvel at, follow, and worship the beast! *the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”*

(2) The elect cannot be deceived!

- Those whose names *are* written in the Book of Life cf. 13:8
- cf. also 1 Jn. 2:20-21, 26-27

3. The Beast’s Geopolitical Manifestation in John’s Day

vv. 9-10

(1) Present day Rome

“Here is the mind that has wisdom:

The seven heads are seven mountains

- cf. the 4th beast of Daniel 7: Representing Rome *on which the woman sits.”*

(2) Seven Kings / Emperors

“There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.”

- Five had fallen
- One presently reigned
- One would follow, whose reign will be brief.

- John and his readers would certainly have known who the sixth king was!
- We are uncertain of the identity. Why has this been left unclear by the Scriptures?

4. The Beast’s Final Personal Incarnation

v. 11

(1) The beast had already existed

“The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth,

- In the person of Satan and as animating various world powers *and is of the seven,*
- He was not presently on the scene (in his final human incarnation) *and is going to perdition.”*

(2) The beast is of the same line as the seven kings

- He is of the same stock
- He is the one who animated the seven kings!

(3) The beast himself is also the eighth king

- “he himself” The beast himself! Satan himself
- “is also the eighth” A historical person! A man possessed by Satan himself!
- He will indeed be animated, controlled by satanic power

– Who is this king? This leader? “the man of sin or lawlessness” 2 Thess. 2:3ff

- An incarnation of the beast at the end of the age,
- The final and most diabolical personal incarnation of the beast,
- It can then be argued that the title “Antichrist” should be applied to this final incarnation of

(4) The beast’s sure judgment is again emphasized