

The Beast

Revelation: How It All Ends

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Bible Text: Revelation 13:1-10; Revelation 17:1-14

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Let's read the first 11 verses. Follow along with me in Revelation 13. "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority." Let's stop right there. Who is the dragon? Satan. And we know that because we're looking across the page at chapter 12:9, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the devil and Satan."

So let's put that back into the end of verse 2, "And Satan gave this beast power, and his seat," or his throne, "and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast:" So they worship Satan who gave power to the beast. "and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?" First of all, if the dragon is a person and the beast is referred to as a "him" we should probably assume that this beast, just like the dragon is symbolic of Satan, the beast is symbolic of a person at least, right? A person. We're just going to use parallelism; we're not going to try to be crazy here and if I'm wrong, I think there are worse things to be wrong about.

Verse 5, "And there was given unto him," that is the beast, this "him," whoever it is, "a mouth speaking great things." The question is: who is giving it to him? It should be probably the end of verse 2, right? Satan gave power to him, gave him authority, gave him his seat and so there was given unto, verse 5, the beast, "a mouth speaking things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months." How long is 42 months? 36 months is 3 years so 3 ½ years. So, this beast, we know it's these 3 ½ years because from chapter 12 we have something happening halfway through. What is it? If the dragon is giving power to this man on earth to subdue the whole earth, that means the dragon has to be where? On earth. When is he cast down to earth according to chapter 12? Halfway through. How do we know? Because he pursues the Jewish nation into the wilderness in chapter 12:14 for one thousand two hundred and threescore days or 3 ½ years. So, if the dragon is cast down here and he empowers the beast for 42 months, then it must be that this is the half of the week that we are talking about.

Questions about that? Are you sure? Alright.

Look at verse 6, “And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them.” So the beast was given power to overcome the saints. “And power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations,” and I think if you have an ESV in your lap, it probably says “and peoples.” You should have four things there, right? Yup. We could talk about that but that sounds like more of a little five minute lesson that I can do during the week if you're interested, why there is a difference between the versions.

Verse 8, “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him.” Who is “him”? Yup, the beast. By the way, we should probably also admit that in verse 4 they are also worshipping who? Right, they're worshipping Satan when they worship the beast because where does the beast get his power? From Satan. Good. Now remember, this hasn't happened yet, so if you just remember we're over here somewhere, I think you'll be okay when you leave the room this morning.

Verse 8, “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity,” so here's the demise of the beast. “He that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.” The saints, you can be comforted knowing that the dragon and the beast have to be killed and they have to be chained up. What happens in chapter 19 when Jesus returns? The beast and the false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire and are killed, that's the second death, and who is thrown into captivity? The dragon, chapter 20:1, he's bound for a thousand years in the bottomless pit so this covers both of them. Verse 11, “And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth.”

Let's take out this big piece of paper here. I have 200 pieces of paper invested in this little project so you will appreciate it. No, I'm just kidding. The truth is, I wanted you to see this. You'll see on the left is Daniel 7 so if you would like, you can write Daniel 7 above that column. You'll notice the green lines there, you'll notice how they give us a little parallel. Do you see that? Does everyone see that? I was going to color code them and maybe put some holograms on here and felt... So, there's some parallelism here. You'll notice please in chapter 13:1 of Revelation, looking at the right side of the paper. Do you see it? You have a beast coming out of the sea and I hope everyone is seeing this. I don't know if I can make it any easier to follow. I could try but you might notice on the right side of the paper, Revelation 13:11, we have another beast coming out of the earth. Look over across the page in Daniel 7: you have four great beasts coming out of the sea, down in verse 17, these four beasts come out of the earth. Well, what's up with that? Please notice that in verse 3 of Daniel 7, do you see it on the left side of the piece of paper? Does everyone see that? The beast came up from the sea so apparently the sense is that while Daniel is looking at this vision, these beasts are coming out of the sea and then look

at verse 17, these beasts shall arise out of the earth so apparently there is a way that these beasts, these four beasts that Daniel is talking about are pictured in both the beast that comes out of the sea that we read about and what we're going to find out next week is the false prophet, the beast that comes out of the earth. All through Revelation you see the earth and the sea, the earth and the sea. Remember chapter 10? You had a mighty angel come down from heaven and he put one foot on the sea and the other on the land and said time should be no longer. Remember that? That is a theme. How about Revelation 20: the earth gave up the dead which were in it and the sea gave up the dead which were in it so earth and sea happened in combination all through the book of Revelation. Should we Facebook about that? Probably not much there. It's probably just shorthand for the whole world. I don't know.

I don't want to look too much into that but please notice if you would, that the beast in Revelation 13 looks a lot like the four beasts in Daniel 7. You see I've made the connection there. Do you see it? Follow the line. I know it looks like an electrician's schematic because that's all I know. So leopard over to leopard. Do you see it? Bear over to bear. Lion over to the lion. And then you have the beast with ten horns and the beast with the ten horns comes right before a particular occurrence in verse 9 of Daniel 7. What is it? Someone help me. What would you say that that looks like? Look at verse 13. What event does it look like it immediately precedes? The coming of Christ so whatever this beast is with the ten horns, it precedes one particular event, the coming of Christ and so you have this beast with ten horns. I wanted you to see that John is not using new material. That is the biggest thing and if you need to go home and stare at this sitting in your happy place for an hour, fine. I just wanted you to have this so that you could see John is using old material. I wanted you to see this.

If you want to know what Daniel 7 means, alright, let's get through it. Look at verse 3, "And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. The first was like a lion," then we have a bear, then we have a leopard, then we have one with ten horns. Now, please look at verse 24, that's on the left side of your piece of paper. We haven't even touched this one, we're on the big one still. The big piece of paper, left column, look down at verse 24, "And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings." Alright, so you have these kings that are coming up and they have not occurred yet from Daniel's perspective so these represent kingdoms.

Now, what occurred after the Babylonian kingdom? Anyone? What conquered the Babylonian kingdom? Medo-Persian, Greece and then Rome and so it looks like we're dealing with those three successive empires. You don't have to be an historical genius when you leave the class today. Good, because I'm not and I just wanted you to see that it looks like Revelation 13 is telling us that this beast, the one with the ten horns, the fourth beast of Daniel 7 also has some of the characteristics that the first three beasts had. So, what do you need to know about Revelation 13 walking out the door? If you want to know more about it, read Daniel 7. I'm not going to teach you Daniel 7 this morning but you need to know that whatever the first beast of Revelation 13:1-10, you need to know it is a conglomeration of all the great kingdoms of history. If you want to know, the

ultimate kingdom is going to be found in this period right here. It's going to look like Babylon, it's going to look like Medo-Persia, it's going to look like Greece, it's going to look like Rome, all wrapped up into one. That's what you need to know.

You need to know that the ten horns that are coming out of this beast in chapter 13:1 of Revelation are ten what according to Daniel 7:24? They're kingdoms or they're kings so this beast that we see in Revelation 13 has apparently ten kings that are associated with it. Do you see that?

You might also notice that pretty much everything we read in Revelation 13 is found in Daniel 7. For example, you might look in verse 5 of Revelation 13. Do you see it on the right side of the piece of paper? It continues 42 months. Then you follow that line down there to Daniel 7:25. Do you see it? A time, times and dividing of time. How long is that? That's right, one time equals how long? One year so we have 3 ½ years in Daniel 7 and 3 ½ years in Revelation 13. What am I trying to say? Well, look, if you try to consume this all in one thirty minute Sunday School class, it's like choking a horse. Unfortunately, I can't find very many good commentaries on Revelation where they don't also try to deal with Daniel. It's very difficult to do that; it's very difficult to say, "We're going to talk about Revelation without talking about Daniel," because there's no guesswork in Revelation. If there is, the guy up front needs to say, "This is a guess." That's what I'm trying to do, I'm trying to say, "I have a guess as to what this beast is but it's informed, it's an informed guess based on Daniel 7." It looks like it's a conglomeration of previous kingdoms and yet this beast is going to have...it hasn't occurred yet. This beast is going to have particular power for 3 ½ years.

What else? Look at verse 8 of Revelation 13. We have this book of life occurring. We follow it across the page to Daniel 7:10 and we find out that we have books being opened. Do you remember Revelation 20? "I saw the books were opened and another book was opened which is called the book of life." So, the books that are opened in Daniel 7 and the book of life of Revelation 13 are seen together in Revelation 20 and that is why I wrote next to Daniel 7, Revelation 20 because this stuff just keeps revisiting each other. Folks, I must tell you, if you came to this Sunday School class because no one would notice you, you might accomplish your mission but you are going to leave the room thinking, "I didn't get anything in that." Okay, so I really need you to be looking kind of closely at this and understanding that, "Okay, I don't understand everything about this passage but this I know, I can get most of it in what chapter of the Bible?" Daniel 7. Bueno. That means good.

Let's put away that piece of paper. Fold that in half, whatever you want to do there. Now we're going to compare this beast to the dragon of Revelation 12. We're going to be dealing with some slides here for a few minutes. Revelation 13:1, "And I stood upon the sand of the sea." We have John following up the vision of the dragon with a vision of the beast. Folks, this is not an accident. The placement of one vision after the other is not an accident and Revelation 13, the first 10 or 11 verses, who is the beast whipping up on? No, it doesn't say Jews. The beast. The saints. You can say it's Jews if you want to but you're pressing that in there, okay, like a 15 pound sausage in a 5 pound wrap, it doesn't

belong. You can press it in there but you've got to work hard. Why? Because in chapter 12 there is a distinction made between the Jewish people and the saints. The Jews flee into the wilderness, the dragon pursues them and then the dragon can't get to them and the last verse in chapter 12 of Revelation says that he turns and goes after who? The remnant of the seed of the woman. Who is the seed of the woman? Christ. Who is his remnant? Those who remain of Christ, I hope, are Christians.

So, the dragon is angry with Christians, the remnant of the seed. But we've got to understand that we have a responsibility to read what's on the page and believe it. So, if the dragon is mad at the Christian, then Revelation 13, John immediately turns and finds a vision of a beast who is picking on who? Believers. Now, how do we know they're Christians? Because Bill Sturm says so? No, look at the last verse of chapter 12: what do they have? The testimony of Christ. These are not unbelieving Jews. The dragon was unsuccessful at targeting the Jews, it says it in chapter 12, the earth swallowed up his efforts to kill the woman, the nation of Israel and so he turns and he uses what according to chapter 13:4, he uses what to go after the saints? What does he use? Chapter 13:4? He uses the beast, that's right. So, whatever the beast is, it doesn't exist until what? About the last half of the tribulation period.

Now, how is that possible? Alright, glad you asked. But before we get to that, let's compare it. So, that's why we're talking about the beast right now so let's talk about the dragon. You might notice if you compare chapter 12:3 with chapter 13:1, the beast and the dragon both have seven heads. Do you see that? Last week we talked about the seven heads having crowns on them which means they're probably kings, yes? It says it right there. And then we might notice that they both have ten horns. Now we let Scripture interpret Scripture: what are these ten horns? Kingdoms, that's right. Good.

Then we go to the next slide and we find the next phrase: crowns upon his horns. If the horns are kingdoms and last week we talked about the seven heads being kingdoms and the dragon, we have crowns on the heads and in the beast we have crowns on the horns, there's something there and I don't know what it is. I'll be honest with you, I don't know why they change. I don't know if there are crowns on both the kings of the heads and both the kings of the horns, I don't know. I promise you I've thought about it long, hard, deep and read for hours on it and I'm not sure why there's crowns on the heads of the dragon and crowns on the horns of the beast. I can take several guesses but we don't want to guess in here. Educated guesses are good but let's make sure it's that if we're going to guess, okay? Educated guesses.

Let's look at the last phrase: upon his heads the name of blasphemy. In other words, the dragon over on his seven heads has crowns and over on the beast seven heads, he doesn't have crowns, he has what? Names of blasphemy. Does everyone see that?

Let's try this drill again, do you want to? Let's pull out that short piece of paper and you might notice some more crazy lines. I just wanted you to see that on the left side you have Revelation 13 and on the right side you have Revelation 17. Does everyone have that? So we have a beast with...we're going to make this, this is going to represent the

beast's head. He has seven heads. So we have seven heads on this beast. Look on the right side of the paper, Revelation 17:9. Let's talk about these seven heads. "And here is the mind which hath wisdom." This is on the short piece of paper on the right, 17:9. "Here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. And there are seven kings. So, we have these seven mountains that apparently represent seven kings and, by the way, it's true. All through the book of Psalms you have mountains representing kingdoms. This is not far-fetched. In other words, you have seven heads that represent kingdoms and they have crowns on them with the dragon but Revelation 17 says they also represent seven kings.

Let's talk about these seven kings, alright? When John is writing this, what year did we say Revelation was written? About 90 AD. apparently when John was writing this and he saw this vision, or maybe he's talking about from the perspective of the fulfillment. In any case, we have to assume that these seven kings, let me give them crowns, are historic. Why? Because in verse 10 we have a clue. What is it? A lot of people say, "Well, what do we have here?" These are the empires of the world that find their consummation or their fulfillment in this great beast, Daniel 7, Revelation 13, then this would be maybe Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome. The one that is, do you see that in verse 10? "Five are fallen, and one is." What empire was going around when John was alive? The Roman empire, right. Then he says "one is not yet." Apparently, this is a kingdom that is like the preceding six, it's even a little bit like Rome and it hasn't happened yet. I would suggest that this is the one world government that will take place around the first part of the tribulation period. That's my suggestion.

Now let's get another hint here about this beast. Verse 11 of chapter 17 of Revelation, "And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth." So, this beast, this guy here, let's give him eyes: five kings are not, one is and one is yet to come so this was future from John's perspective. And the beast, is he one of the seven? No, he's the eighth. Is everyone with me? So, he's the eighth in the kingdom. Now let's go back up here to our little seven year block: 3 ½ year period and 3 ½. If this kingdom that is not yet is here in the 3 ½ year period, then it seems like that the eighth beast...now, let's talk again, let's get our bearings here, the eighth beast has power for how long? The eighth king happens halfway through this tribulation period. The beast that we're talking about is king number 8 and he shows up over here. Why? Because he's empowered by who? And the dragon is kicked out of heaven when? So the eighth beast takes place here.

Tell me about this eighth king because that's what it says there are, right? There are seven kings, chapter 17:10 of Revelation. There's seven kings and the beast is a king, he's the eighth king. Tell me about him. He's the eighth but he's what? He's one of the seven. How is that possible? The eighth beast is also one of these. How is that possible? It must be that we can find the answer somewhere in the book of Revelation and I can give you three places in chapter 13. Are you ready? Is everyone looking at chapter 13? Look at verse 3, "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed." So, one of these kings looks like it has a death and a what? And a resurrection. Are you all with me? The beast, he's the eighth one and he's one of the seven, correct? It makes sense that he becomes the resurrected version of one of these.

Are you all with me? It says it also in chapter 13 in verse 12, "he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed." Is everyone with me? Look at verse 14, "And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live." There it is, three times in the book of Revelation, chapter 13. Apparently, one of these kings and I'm going to say that it's probably the one that's living at the time that the beast who is going to be still on the earth. We're not saying that this guy is somehow created somewhere at age 33 and he shows up and he becomes the beast. No, he's probably involved with this kingdom number seven, yes? He's probably the seventh emperor; he's probably the one world leader at the beginning of the tribulation period and he is the seventh king. Then it looks like, based on the fact three times in Revelation 13 it says "he died and was raised, a deadly wound was healed." It looks like he's going to have a sort of death and resurrection and come back but it's not him. He's a separate king altogether. What makes him different? Satan is empowering him. Yes?

Let's talk about Satan's counterfeiting ability here and I think that I've pretty much exercised you as much as I can today. It says the beast had a deadly wound that was healed though and it says in Revelation 17 that these are seven kings, five are fallen, one is and the other is not yet so while the heads are definitely kingdoms, there is a particular figurehead that this prophecy has in mind. So, what can we know about this antichrist? Let's try to remember the word antichrist is not used in the book of Revelation but the antichrist, if you want to use that term, we can, that's found in the book of Revelation, it shows up halfway through the tribulation period but he looks like he's been around for a while so apparently there is this death and resurrection and then a following. That sounds just like what Christ did. Hello? He died, was raised again and then a church was formed and it's been going for 2,000 years. So what makes this Christ so appealing to the world is that he has all the markings of what the people think a Christ ought to be: a death, a resurrection, a miracle worker and so he's easy to believe in. Why? He was dead, he was raised to life.

Now let's talk about another thing if we could for just a moment: Jesus Christ was God of what? God Incarnate and halfway through the tribulation period, when this seventh king is raised from the dead and really is the eighth king, he's who incarnate? Satan. I want to show you two verses of Scripture to show you that this is not new to John. Look, if you would, at 2 Thessalonians. We're turning back and I'm going to show you two verses in Scripture. 2 Thessalonians 2:1, "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him." A lot of people would say those are two separate events. Come on, that's not the natural reading of that verse. Don't read that into there. When he comes, we'll be gathered to him. Verse 2, "That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day," the day of Christ or in some versions it says "the day of the Lord," "shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition." What is Jesus? Who is he? Son of who? God. So we have someone here

known as the son of perdition or the son of lawlessness or the son of worthlessness or the son of desolation. Verse 4, “Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.” He says, “Hey everyone, I’m God in the flesh.” This is a real Christ figure here. Are you all with me? I’m not saying Jesus of Nazareth, don’t hear what I’m not saying. Look in verse 7, “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth.”

Let’s understand what this process is called in verse 7. What’s it called? Mystery of what? Iniquity. Satan in the flesh claiming to be God is the mystery of iniquity. Yes? Alright, let’s look at 1 Timothy. It’s like the next book, I think. Look at 1 Timothy 3. Mystery of iniquity. Satan in the flesh claiming to be God. Are you all with me? 1 Timothy 3, this is still Paul. Paul thinks amazingly, folks, parallels are everywhere. Look at verse 16, “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” The mystery of iniquity is Satan becoming flesh or inhabiting flesh, however you want to say it. I know it’s a big difference, I got that, I’ll use my words more carefully. Inhabiting flesh. What’s the mystery of godliness? God becoming flesh. So Paul uses two terms here: God becoming flesh, he’s the Son of God; Satan becoming flesh, claiming to be the Son of God and he’s really 2 Thessalonians 2 calls him the son of perdition. Do you all see that?

Parallels, so Paul and John believe the same thing and if we back up and we look at this monstrosity I brought to class today that requires lots of editing on the audio version, you’re going to see that Daniel and John and Paul all believed the same thing. Then when you realize when it says in 2 Thessalonians 2 that this son of perdition will sit in the temple of God claiming to be God and Jesus said in Matthew 24 “when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet standing in the holy place,” remember that? You have Matthew, Mark, Jesus, Paul, Daniel, John and they all believe the same thing. Halfway through this tribulation period, one of these seven, the one that will be, will die and apparently be brought back to life to become the eighth king and that will happen in this half of the tribulation period. He is going to be what the Jews would have wanted the first time with Jesus. They wanted Jesus to come and rescue them from the atrocity of the occupying Roman empire. In Daniel 9 it says that the prince that shall come, the antichrist, will confirm the covenant with the Jewish people for seven years. The antichrist is going to become cozy, king number seven is going to become cozy with the Jewish people. He’s going to become cozy with the Jewish people, he’s going to give them their temple, he’s going to set up their kingdom in Israel, they’re going to have their own sovereignty in their land, they’re not going to have anyone to mess with, somehow it’s going to be okay. Then, halfway through, Satan is cast out of the heavenlies,

Revelation 12, and he inhabits this antichrist who now halfway through the week, Daniel 9, Matthew 24, 2 Thessalonians 2, sits in that temple of God on probably the Ark of the Covenant and claims to be the God who needs to be worshiped. Yeah, Jesus didn't rescue you from anyone. He died at the Roman's hands. At best, he got up and left and went back to heaven. At best, and that's if he concedes that.

You'll notice that I have two verses marked in Daniel 7 on the piece of paper. One says that they came from the sea or are coming from the sea and one saying they will come out of the earth and I do believe that there are two ways in which these empires will reveal themselves: one in the past and one in the future. It's a good guess and the ones that will come out of the earth are future yet and that is why the ones that came out of the sea will find their ultimate fulfillment in the beast in that he looks like a bear, a lion, a leopard and he has ten horns just like the first four beasts.

You might notice, please, in chapter 13, verse 12 of Revelation, it says, "And he," the other beast, "exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him." They have almost the same power, the same ability and so it's almost like you have beast number one, beast number two and they both look like the beast of Daniel 7.

(...) No, like Brother Dick pointed out, it's possible that their kingdoms far outlasted the kings and their influence did as well.