

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Surveyed Rv13. Daniel's Prophecy; Warning of Apostasy; Testing Fidelity.
2. **A Parody of the Trinity**: Dragon, Beast & False Prophet: fake Trinity. Satanic counterfeits: comically tragic. The foolishness of idolatry
3. Dragon: the Father; 1<sup>st</sup> Beast: the Son - Rv 2:26-27 [Ps 2 in Rv12:5]; 2<sup>nd</sup> Beast [false prophet]: HS [Jn 16:14]
4. The failure of demonic counterfeit seen in symbolic number: 666 - a Triune falling short of the more perfect symbolic number: 777.

**1st: Monster of Satanic State Government - v1-2**

1. 2 Beasts present themselves to be empowered by *Dragon* to do his bidding
2. *coming up out of sea* - Dan 7:3. Beast an amalgam of Dan's Beasts
3. W/ *10 horns* [Dan 7:2-3, 7,20,24]; *7 heads; 10 diadems on 10 horns* [10 kgs Dan 7:24]. *Blasphemous names* - Dan 7:8's 4<sup>th</sup> Beast - *uttering great boasts*.
4. *Sea* - watery *abyss*; 17:15 humanity ruled by Harlot: realm of the dead
5. *Heads, horns, diadems* - the numbers *7 & 10*
6. *blasphemous names* - idolatry: Emperor worship. Lk 20:24
7. 12:3 & 13:1 Beast is image [son?] of Dragon. v2d Dragon's *authority* [2C4:4], but, 13:5,7 - *all was given to him* [4x] - by God. Rv 12:11

**2nd: Misrepresentation of Christ and the Gospel of Christ' Resurrection - v3a**

1. False Christ & false gospel re: a false resurrection proclaimed by false prophet.
2. Fake Lamb *slain* [= 5:6; 13:8 true *slain Lamb*] & *fatal wound healed*
3. *wound = plague* [Rv9 & 11]: God's jdgmnt. How? Rv 13:12,14 *wound* [blow] *of sword* = Word of God from Christ [Rv 1:16; 2:12,16; 19:15,21]
4. When & how was 1st Beast fatally wounded & came to life? Debated. How will the *image of the Beast* [v14] come to life? [Mt 24:24].

**3rd: Deception on a Global Scale - v3b-4**

1. Satan's global false theocracy [gov't w/ religious meaning].
2. Beast [*spirit of antiChrist* 1Jn 4:3]: The AntiChrist.
3. v3 - *amazed* = rxn to Jesus: ambiguous; *followed after* = mimick discipleship

4. v4 - *follow Beast* but *worship Dragon* as they *worshipped the Beast*.
  - i. Politics has become religion: *worship* - 5x in v4-15 [2<sup>nd</sup> Beast v11f]
  - ii. Satan is obeyed *b/c he gave his authority to Beast* [v2 - 5x in Rv 13]. Jesus' authority [Lk 20:2; Ps 110]; Rv 12:10 [Mat 28:18].
5. *Who is like the Beast?* Mimics praise of Lord: [Ps 113:4-5]- Exo 15:11
  - i. Who can defeat the Beast? Rv 12:7-9
  - ii. v4 is answered in 13:7 - saints are overcome wh/ is how saints overcome! 11:7 & 12:11. Witness = martyr = overcomer.

**4th: Abomination of Blasphemy - v5-6**

1. *was given* => all Beast does is under God's sovereignty. God relates to evil as God, not as a creature. We cannot comprehend God much less judge God.
2. Limited time frame - *42 months* = the Church Age: [11:2; 11:3; 12:6,14] = time between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> comings.
3. This blasphemous, boasting Beast is prefigured in Dan's 4 Beasts - especially the 4<sup>th</sup> beast w/ *a mouth uttering great boasts* [Dan 7:8].
4. v6 - *opened his mouth* interprets flood from dragon's mouth in 12:16. *Blaspheme* [3x in v5-6] *against God, His name & tabernacle* = III<sup>rd</sup> c.

**Observations**

1. Demonic deception is horrifying: beast devouring prey. We're in midst of 4<sup>th</sup> cycle [enmity of 2 seeds]. We wage war w/ gospel love.
2. We must know the true resurrected Lord Jesus & live by faith as worshipping witnesses who are overcoming.