

Revelation 13:11-18
“The Beast of the Earth”

When Satan is confined to this earth, he will bring to power two key human agents to assist him in his plot to exterminate the Jews and to rid the world of anything connected to God. They are on the scene at the same time and both are dedicated to evil. The second beast never does anything independent of the first beast. **What actually will exist is an evil trinity - Satan, the Antichrist, and the false prophet. All three of these are against Christ and all three are out to destroy God’s people.**

There are many false Christs and there are many false prophets (Matt. 24:11, 24), but there is only one Antichrist and only one false prophet who are so satanically prominent at this point in the Great Tribulation.

There are twelve character traits we want to observe concerning this false prophet:

Trait #1 - This beast is “another” beast. **13:11a**

In Greek there are two key pronouns translated “another”: 1) heteros (ετερος) which means another of a different kind; and 2) allos (αλλος) which means another of the same kind. The pronoun used here is the second, meaning this will be another satanic beast like the first one.

Trait #2 - This beast is a “beast .” **13:11b**

What this means is that he will be another wild, untamable, ferocious monster. He will not be brought into submission while he is active and alive. Ferocious beasts are never a friend.

Trait #3 - This beast is one who comes up out of the earth . **13:11c**

We may recall that the first beast came up out of the sea (13:1), but this one comes up out of the earth. This is probably a reference to the fact that this second beast is Jewish or part Jewish as opposed to being a Gentile. In other passages in Revelation this beast is called the “false prophet,” which lends itself to the interpretation that he is Jewish (18:13; 19:20; 20:10*). In Scripture the “sea” people are often classified as Gentiles (Rev. 1:1, 15) and the “earth” people are those who are Jewish. It is possible that he is half Jew and half Arab.

Trait #4 - This beast has two horns . **13:11c**

These two horns inform us that this beast does have some political clout, but not as extensive as the first beast (13:1). The text states he had “two horns **like a lamb**.” This means two things:

- 1) He will be connected to religious sacrifices, specifically the Jewish sacrifices.
- 2) He will appear to be a very meek religious leader, but in all reality he is a vicious satanic religious leader.

(236)

Trait #5 - This is a beast who speaks like a dragon. **13:11e**

This will be a religious person who speaks for Satan. His speech, no matter how religious or eloquent, will be completely destructive. The speech of this false prophet will lead people to burning hell. This man will be a literal fire-breathing dragon because those who listen to him will end up burning. He will use very deceptive speech designed to deceive the whole world.

Trait #6 - This is a beast who has great power. **13:12a**

This beast will have the same kind of authority and power as the first beast. He will be able to do powerful things.

Trait #7 - This beast forces people to worship the first beast. **13:12b**

What this means is that this false prophet will use his religious power to force people to worship the Antichrist. Carefully notice this point. The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to point people to Jesus Christ (John 16:13-14). The purpose of the false prophet is to point people to the false Christ. When the text refers to the earth, this means he will demand that all Jews and also all people on earth worship the Antichrist. He will point out the fact that the deadly wound of the Antichrist was healed and he will point people to worship him.

Trait #8 - This beast has great miraculous powers. **13:14-15**

This is what will convince many that he is a great Jewish prophet. He will be able to make fire come down out of heaven in the presence of men. He will eventually even be able to impart life to an idol (**13:15a**). This will cause most people of the world to believe that this is truly a great prophet. When the people of the world see that he gives his allegiance to the Antichrist, many will follow his ways (**Matt. 24:24-31**). God is actually permitting this satanic delusion to occur at this time (**II Thess. 2:8-12**).

This world is being prepared for this type of delusion now by the religious people who claim to do miracles, especially in the charismatic movement, which is demonic. This will actually pave the way for the Antichrist and the false prophet.

Trait #9 - This beast will promote idolatry. **13:14b**

This false prophet will encourage the Jews in particular to construct an idol to the Antichrist and to worship it when the Antichrist is not physically present. This is what is called the “abomination of desolation” (Matt. 24:15). The false prophet will actually promote the worship of the Antichrist in the Temple in Jerusalem.

We may recall that the Temple belongs to God (Rev. 11:1-2), so when the Antichrist is worshipped in God’s Temple, it truly is an abomination.

(237)

Trait #10 - This beast will make the idol come to life. **13:15**

This will be very deceptive because the Antichrist, himself, had been raised from the dead and now an Antichrist idol comes to life. Since idols are lifeless and speechless until this one, certainly this will be impressive and deceive the world.

This idol will have the ability to speak and pronounce a death sentence on those who do not worship the Antichrist. This same kind of idolatrous death sentence occurred back in Daniel's day (Dan. 3:1-11).

Trait #11 - This beast will make worshippers have a mark. **13:16-18**

This mark shows up five other times in Revelation: 14:9, 11; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4. There are four critical observations we want to make about this mark:

(Observation #1) - It is a mark required to be on all people. **13:16a**

It will make no difference who one is; from king to peasant, "all" will be required to have this mark.

(Observation #2) - It is a mark placed on the right hand or forehead. **13:16b**

This is a satanic version of Deuteronomy 6:8. It will be a way of saying, "I am permanently connected to Satan and I am permanently cut off from God."

Some have questioned whether or not this is a literal mark. Since the specific location of the mark is mentioned, "right hand" or "forehead," we may assume it is a literal mark.

(Observation #3) - It is a mark that is critical for physical survival. **13:17a**

During the Tribulation the world has experienced the judgment of God and this will certainly cause problems economically. If one does not have this mark, he/she cannot buy anything - groceries, gas, medicine, prescriptions, property, houses. The Antichrist will place these economic sanctions on the entire world and the false prophet will demand that all people have this mark. The mindset will be, either worship the Antichrist and have this mark or die.

(Observation #4) - It is a mark that is either the Antichrist's name or a number. **13:17b-18**

Grammatically, the nouns "name" and "number" sit epexegetically to the noun "mark." What this means is that a person will need one or the other, either the name or the mark.

Now God does not see fit to give us the Antichrist's name, but God does give us his number. The number is 666. It is very possible that this is the very number he uses because this is a known satanic number.

Revelation 13:18 is very different. In the middle of information about the Antichrist and the Tribulation, God pauses to challenge any with understanding to calculate this number.

What we learn from this statement is that deciphering the number will come by calculating or numbering. Whoever is going to figure this fascinating riddle out will have to do so by counting numbers.

Now we may make a series of observations about the number 666:

- 1) There are obviously three sixes in the number which would clearly represent the false trinity with one six for each member - Satan, Antichrist, false prophet.
- 2) At best 666 is short of 777. This means that in every area and every category, this group falls short of God. This satanic trio is doing some powerful things, but it will never be as powerful as God.
- 3) The number 6 is a number we can clearly connect to man. Genesis 1:26-31
- 4) The number 6 is a number we can clearly connect to a giant who mocked God and God's people. I Samuel 17:4
- 5) The number 6 is a number we can clearly connect to abominable idolatry. Daniel 3:1
- 6) The number 666 is not a number we can specifically calculate to a person at this time.

The Antichrist will be revealed in "his" time (II Thess. 2:6). His time will be after the Rapture. Somehow those alive after the Rapture will be able to count numbers and come to the total of 666.

In ancient times, letters of the alphabet served as numbers (i.e. I V = 4; X X II = 22). Somehow the Antichrist will have a name that can be linked to the number 666. It may be that his first, middle, and last name each will have six letters and if you put some numerical value on the letters, it will total 666.

Over the years there have been many attempts to connect the number 666 to someone. But it is better to realize that the calculation of the numbers for Antichrist identification purposes is not yet operative and will be after the Rapture.

Trait #12 - The destiny of the Antichrist and false prophet is sealed. Rev. 19:20

In the end, these two satanic agents will be thrown into the eternal lake of fire.

THE ANTICHRIST IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Daniel 7:7-11, 19-26

There is no question that the book in the O.T. that gives us the most detail about the Antichrist is Daniel. He is a key feature of Daniel 7, 8, 9 and 11. In **Daniel 7**, there are at least 23 facts brought out about the Antichrist. Some facts in these four chapters seem redundant, but in all reality they are facts God keeps repeating because He wants the data clearly known.

Fact #1 - He is a dreadful, terrifying, extremely strong beast. **7:7a**

According to Brown, Driver and Briggs, the noun “beast” is used to describe a living, wild, unclean, relatively young, strong beast who is evil and viciously destroys even other beasts (*Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 312). This is a fitting noun for him, because this is exactly who he is and exactly what he does.

Fact #2 - He is a beast who has iron teeth. **7:7b**

Fact #3 - He is a beast who devours, crushes and tramples with his feet. **7:7c**

What is described in these first facts is a vicious beast who will tear people to shreds and crush them.

Fact #4 - He is a beast different from all others who have ever existed. **7:7d**

In fact, he is so different that the entire world will acknowledge that none have ever been like him (Revelation 13:4). When one thinks about some of the terrible beasts who have ruled in history - Caligula, Nero, Domitian, Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin and then realizes this one will be worse than all of these combined, we must admit the world has never seen any who will compare to him.

Fact #5 - He is a beast who has ten horns. **7:7e / 23-24**

According to Daniel 2:43-45, these are ten political powers are also ten toes who stand side by side as a united force. This Antichrist will unite ten European powers and ultimately he will have total control of them.

Fact #6 - He will initially surface as one of the ten kings. **7:8a**

This is a critical key to spotting him. He will be one of the ten world leaders who unite together. When he first surfaces, he appears to be one of the ten, but he is not just one of the ten, he will end up the leader of the world. The Roman Empire, at its zenith of power in the first century A.D. included, generally speaking, what is now England. Spain was in the Empire, West Germany was in it, Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey, France, Italy, Belgium, Holland.

(240)

On April 4, 1949, NATO was established which originally featured twelve nations (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States). In 1952 Greece and Turkey were added. In 1955 the Republic of Germany was added. In 1982 Spain was added. So by 1982, all of the players are in place to revive the Roman Empire and produce this world leader. Then, in 1989, the Berlin Wall fell and Germany was reunified and a new European economy emerged and a common currency called the Euro was introduced and right now is in the process of reuniting European nations. More than likely, ten of these nations will strongly unite together and the Antichrist will be one of the ten leaders.

Fact #7 - He will initially surface as a dictator who took control of three nations. **7:8b**

This point is stressed three times in this chapter which means this is a critical key to his identity, he will surface by taking over three nations (Daniel 7:8, 20, 24). We do not know specifically which three nations he will control, but something fascinating happened in 1958, there was a rise of Arab nationalism in which ironically three countries united together to form an Arab federation, thus distancing themselves from NATO - Syria, Egypt and Iraq. Just recently there seems to be an alliance forming between Russia, Syria and Iran because of the Middle East tension. Sooner or later three major political players will unite behind one man.

Fact #8 - He will possess the look of a normal man, but he is not a normal man. **7:8c**

He will be intelligent, charismatic, and persuasive. He will be a wonderful politician who can talk peace, prosperity and plenty. He will appear to be a tremendous humanitarian. However, he is a vicious satanic ruthless monster.

Fact #9 - He will boast about great things. **7:8d**

He will speak arrogantly even against God. He will take credit for things God does. He will make impressive claims, which are all arrogant lies.

Fact #10 - He will be eventually judged and cast into the lake of fire, body and all. **7:11**

God wants all to know that He will destroy him Personally.

Fact #11 - He is a different beast more dreadful and devouring than any other. **7:19**

There have been some dreadful, beastly humans who have lived in this world - Ted Bundy, John Gacy. The Antichrist will make them look like nice school boys.

Fact #12 - He will exist at the same time the other ten key nations exist. **7:20a**

This is a key point, the Roman Empire will be revived, and there will be ten European nations who will band together. It is interesting that one of the main purposes of NATO is military defense.

(241)

Fact #13 - He will rise when three nations fall. **7:20b**

The specific nations are not stated, but they will be eventually.

Fact #14 - He will look like a normal man. **7:20c**

Nothing about his look will initially give the impression he is the Antichrist. He will be a suit and tie man, not a satanic worshipper dressed in a black robe.

Fact #15 - He will make arrogant boasts. **7:20d**

He will exalt himself above every so called god or object of worship (II Thessalonians 2:4).

Fact #16 - He will be larger than the other horns. **7:20e**

No world leader has ever come close to the magnitude of this one. He starts as a “little” horn (7:8) and ends as the largest horn to have ever existed in world history.

Fact #17 - He will wage war with God’s people and overpower them. **7:21**

During the first half of the Tribulation, after the Rapture, he will kill any believer (Revelation 6:9) and during the second half of the Tribulation he will try to destroy every single Jew all over the world (Revelation 12:17). Zechariah predicts that only one third of the Jews will survive (Zechariah 13:8-9).

Fact #18 - He will devour the whole world . **7:23**

He will have unlimited geographical power and resources. Carefully observe in Daniel 7:17 he is identified as a king. This is critical because he is a dictatorial king of the world, not an elected president who is interested in some form of democracy.

Fact #19 - He will arise by subduing three kings. **7:24**

We come back to this point because God wants His people to realize that this will mark his initial rise to power. He starts out as a dictator over three countries and ends up a dictator of the whole world.

Fact #20 - He will speak out against God. **7:25**

Fact #21 - He will stamp out God’s people. **7:25b**

Fact #22 - He will be the law of the world for 3½ years. **7:25c**

For 1260 days, 42 months or 3½ years he has his power (Rev. 12:6; 11:2; 13:5). He is the law.

(242)

Fact #23 - God will judge him and destroy him. **7:26**

His power and his existence will all be brought down by God.

Daniel 8:23-25

From this chapter we glean eleven more facts:

Fact #1 - He will be insolent. **8:23b**

Most people do not like fights, this one will love fights. He will be a fierce fighter who is a power crazed maniac.

Fact #2 - He will be skilled in intrigue. **8:23c**

He will have a very high I.Q. During WWI psychological tests became important to try to determine the emotional stability of a soldier. In 1943, the MMPI (Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory) was developed, and by the late 1980s, 700 true/false questions were developed to try and measure I.Q. Colleges use an SAT test with a maximum of 2400 points and the ACT test with a maximum of 36 points, to determine whether one has the scholastic aptitude to make it in college. **The Antichrist will have an I.Q. which is off the charts.** In fact, his number 666 is just shy of the Divine number for the Trinity 777. He will be the smartest man the world has ever seen. He will have a brilliant mind capable of solving difficult crisis problems, such as the Mid-East mess.

Fact #3 - He will have unusual power, not his own. **8:24a**

He will be empowered directly by Satan himself (Revelation 13:2; II Thessalonians 2:9).

Fact #4 - He will be unusually destructive. **8:24b**

He will destroy things and people at a very unusual level. We gasp at destructive people and destructive programs. The Antichrist will glory in destruction. He will love it.

Fact #5 - He will be very prosperous. **8:24c**

He will prosper with everything he has and in everything he does. None can stop his prosperity.

Fact #6 - He will destroy God's people. **8:24d**

The Scriptures teach us that if he were not time regulated by God, all of God's people would die by his hand (Matthew 24:22).

(243)

Fact #7 - He will be a skilled liar who can deceive the whole world . **8:25a**

He will be able to look cameras and people in the face and say he is a caring man who wants peace and safety and prosperity for all, when nothing could be further from the truth. When the Lindbergh baby was kidnapped and killed back in 1932, before Richard Hauptman was convicted and executed in 1936, 200 people came forward and confessed they did it. Police said they knew most of them were lying. The Antichrist will be such a skilled liar that no one will have any idea that he is lying.

Fact #8 - He will elevate himself in his own heart . **8:25b**

People will not initially be able to see or detect this.

Fact #9 - He will destroy many who think they are secure . **8:25c**

Many will believe this person is their friend, especially Israel, when in all reality he is their worst nightmare who will destroy them suddenly (I Thessalonians 5:3).

Fact #10 - He will oppose the Prince of Princes. **8:25d**

He will oppose Jesus Christ which gives him the fitting title “Anti Christ.”

Fact #11 - He will be destroyed but not by any human means. **8:25e**

God, Himself, in the Person of Jesus Christ will destroy him by casting him alive into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20-21). No human can bring him down.

Daniel 9:27

There are two very important facts revealed here about the Antichrist:

Fact #1 - He will make a covenant with Israel at the beginning of the seven year Tribulation, which sanctions her worship of God. **9:27b**

He pretends to have a caring interest for Israel, but it is a big lie.

Fact #2 - He will break the covenant with Israel in the middle of the seven year Tribulation and demand that he be worshipped. **9:27c**