

THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE BEAST FROM THE SEA–THE ANTICHRIST-PART III
REVELATION 13:1-10

Introduction

We have taken the last two messages to give you a portrait of what type of person the Antichrist will be.

In our first message on the Antichrist, we saw his life contrasted with that of Christ and saw how that he will be the direct opposite of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in many ways.

Then last week we looked at his personal characteristics:

We Saw His Smarts– how that he will be a very shrewd, cunning, and intelligent man

We Saw His Speech–how that he will be a man of eloquence, persuasiveness, confidence, cockiness, and defiance toward God.

We Saw His Statesmanship–how that he will be a political genius.

We Saw His Savvy–he will appear to be an economic genius from the world's view.

We Saw His Strategy–he will be a world dictator and a cunning warrior.

We Saw His Source–he will receive his power and authority from Satan.

Now, let's look in detail at our verses here in Revelation:

I. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE BEAST. (13:1-2)

John in his vision describes a beast which is believed to be both a reference to the Antichrist and to his system of government.

The beast is both a kingdom and a person too since he is described with personal pronouns.

The beast is described as having seven heads and ten horns with crowns on the horns.

The seven heads are a reference to the seven world powers.

Look at **Revelation 17:10** for a moment:

The first five powers were Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, And Greece.

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The sixth head was in power at the time of John's writing which happened to be the Roman empire.

The seventh king is a reference to the Antichrist who will rule a revived Roman empire in the Tribulation period.

The ten horns represent the ten nations of that revived Roman Empire that the Antichrist will control and which correspond to the ten toes in Daniel's vision of Nebuchadnezzar's dream found in **Daniel 2:31-45**.

So, Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of this image that was revealed to Daniel along with the interpretation. From looking back into history, we can come to some conclusions of the meaning of the dream and the image.

The Head of Gold = Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian Empire.

The Breast & Arms of Silver = The Medes and the Persians.

The Stomach & Thighs of Brass = Greece

The Legs of Iron = The Roman Empire which was headquartered in Rome and Constantinople.

The Ten Toes Of Iron & Clay = The Revived Roman Empire.

The legs of iron were never destroyed by another empire, but rather fell through internal corruption. The iron in the toes indicates the final empire is still a part of the Roman Empire and the clay shows its deterioration and weakness.

Daniel says that these ten toes are ten kingdoms. **The structure for the ten kingdoms is in existence today.**

As we continue to examine Revelation 13, notice again **verse 2**.

John describes the beast and compares it to a leopard, bear, and lion.

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In **Daniel chapter seven**, Daniel lists these same animals in his vision only he lists them in the opposite order of John.

1st –the Lion = the Babylonian Empire which was fierce and powerful like the lion.

2nd –the Bear = the Medeo-Persia Empire which was strong, stable, and ferocious like a bear.

3rd –the Leopard = the Greek Empire which conquered with the speed of a leopard under the leadership of Alexander the Great.

4th –the Nondescript beast.

This fourth empire gathers all these elements and characteristics in itself and is far more dreadful in its power and blasphemy than the preceding empires.

In addition to these natural symbols of strength is added the factor of satanic power. Satan is the one who energizes and empowers the Antichrist and gives him his authority!

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE BEAST.

II. THE DEADLY WOUND. (13:3)

The interpretation of this verse is debated.

One of the seven heads is wounded to death and is healed. If the head refers to one of the seven heads mentioned in verse one, then this is a reference to a world empire that appeared dead and gone but is revived.

We know that the old Roman Empire is going to be revived from obscurity and that the Antichrist will play a vital role in its revival.

You will also find that many scholars also interpret this verse to be a reference to a wound that the Antichrist receives.

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This view says that he is seriously wounded by a sword and *appears* to be slain but is restored to life. (*Vs 14*)

John says in *verse 3*, “*as it were wounded to death.*” We know that Satan does not have the power to give life. Christ alone has the power of resurrection! But Satan and his demons do have the power to possess a person!

The Antichrist may use this incident to declare that he is God. This is one of those passages that is difficult to figure out and explain.

So, let’s stick to what we do know. We do know that the wounding incident is very important because John mentions it three times. (*Verses 3, 12, 14*)

The fact that he recovers from this wound causes the world to wonder how to make war with the beast. He will appear to be invincible, like a god.

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE BEAST, THE DEADLY WOUND...

III. THE DRAGON IS WORSHIPED. (13:4)

Satan and the Antichrist are both worshiped by the world. Worship is the one thing that Satan has always wanted. (*Matthew 4:8-10*)

When people worship the Antichrist, they will in essence be worshipping Satan.

1 Corinthians 10:20—“But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.”

The Antichrist will enter the Holy of Holies of the rebuilt Jewish Temple and declare himself to be God.

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2 Thessalonians 2:4—“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.”

Satan worship and other various religions which worship him with a variety of labels are in existence now and are gaining in both popularity and acceptance.

When Satan is worshiped, the world reaps the destructive consequences of that worship.

*THE DESCRIPTION OF THE BEAST, THE DEADLY WOUND,
THE DRAGON IS WORSHIPED...*

IV. THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE BEAST. (13:5-6)

As we have said before, the Antichrist will be an arrogant blasphemer. This man will be filled with blasphemies and very verbal with his blasphemies against God, Jews, Christians, and those in Heaven.

Daniel 7:8, 25; 11:36

The Antichrist will be the mouthpiece of Satan. He will be Satan's tool to express himself to mankind.

After his head wound, which is miraculously healed, he will be allowed to act for only 42 more months or the last 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation.

V. THE DEATH OF THE SAINTS. (13:7-10)

Power is given to the Antichrist to persecute and kill saints.

The short-term future of the Tribulation saints will be bleak, but their future will be bright.

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A parallel of the Antichrist can be seen in Daniel 3 as Nebuchadnezzar persecuted those who would not worship his image!

The three Hebrew children who had faith in God refused to worship his image and were thrown into a fiery furnace.

There is an anti-Christian sentiment that is growing in the world today. The Christian Law Association tells us that our freedom to tell others about Christ, to pray, and to express one's faith in the Lord are increasingly being restricted and attacked in many parts of the United States.

There are celebrities who openly express their disdain for Christians. Christianity is constantly shown in a bad light in the media and by Hollywood (or un holy wood).

John 16:2—“. . .The time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.”

The Antichrist will be given power to control the world.

The stage is set for the Antichrist to control the economy and exert his power over the world now.

Computers now exist that are capable of storing information on every person in the world today.

Technology exists that allows computer chips to be imbedded in people for all kinds of purposes.

Could the Antichrist put this technology to use with regard to his mark?

Conclusion

I, for one, am glad that I won't be here to find out! (*Vs 9a*)