

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 27TH, 2024 // REVELATION

THE BEAST FROM THE SEA (REVELATION 13:1-4) THE EPIC DRAMA CONTINUES

As the drama continues, John sees the antagonist dragon (Satan) standing on the "sand of the sea" about to wage war against God's people.

- Satan will wage his last battle against humanity via two people: the "beast from the sea" and the "beast from the earth."

"I SAW A BEAST COMING UP OUT OF THE SEA"

There was a legitimate fear in John's time of uncharted waters. Jewish mythology told of sea monsters (Leviathan and Behemoth). More than likely, this is referring to a sea of people.

- John is painting a picture of a monstrous person who will rise up and rage against Christianity.

THIS "MONSTER" WILL BE A POLITICIAN

The **10 horns** are political institutions. **7 heads** may be previous evil empires building up to the Antichrist and the last evil empire that he will lead. The **10 crowns** (countries?) are 3 more than the 7 mentioned in Chapter 12, showing that 3 of these countries combine.

"...ON ITS HEADS WERE BLASPHEMOUS NAMES"

This shows that the empires of the past and the one that will be the last evil empire intensely and directly verbally attack Christ and the church.

- **There already exists a hatred towards Christianity that is both hypocritical and unique to all other forms of hate.**

THE BODY OF THE ANTICHRIST

The beast was "like a leopard, its feet were like bear's, and its mouth like a lion's." This last empire will have traits of previous evil empires: Babylon (lion), Persia (bear), and Greece (leopard).

- **Until v. 3, this is more of a movement. The spirit of the "antichrist" has been brewing for millennia but eventually culminates in one evil person.**

- 1 John 4:3 (CSB)

"ONE OF ITS HEADS APPEARED...FATALLY WOUNDED"

Satan is very unoriginal. He will become a parody of the Trinity, and his Antichrist will be fatally wounded and resurrected much like Jesus, but it will be a mockery of the true resurrection.

- This will probably be some kind of assassination attempt, but the results will make people believe he is a god.

"THE WHOLE EARTH WAS AMAZED"

In restoring the Antichrist, Satan gives him authority. People who don't follow Christ will worship this man like a savior (12:9), and like Psalm 89:6-8 tells us to worship God.

- **It's one thing to respect earthly authority, but another to look at it as a savior. There's one Savior, and He will never be a politician.**

WAGING WAR (REVELATION 13:5-10)

THE POWER OF WORDS

The first order of business from the Antichrist will be to **slander, boast, and blaspheme**. Eventually, blasphemy of God and Christian principles will lead to a war where people will be slaughtered for 42 months, and the Antichrist will proclaim himself god (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

- **We are reminded again about the power of words!**

THE ATTACK WILL MOVE FROM VERBAL TO PHYSICAL

God will allow Satan to "conquer" His people for a brief time through persecution and eventually martyrdom. The beast's dominion and his attack will be global. Christians all over the world will be imprisoned and killed.

- **This is one of those very difficult questions that will only be completely understood in eternity.**
- Philippians 1:28-29 (CSB)

JESUS TALKED ABOUT THIS EARLIER

Jesus mentioned false prophets in Matt. 24:24 who would deceive many people, even ones who appeared to be Christians.

- So, this scene has already been written. **Those who have a superficial faith or who don't believe will fall to the Antichrist's tricks, but true Christians will suffer for their faith.**

LISTENING AND TRUSTING (VS. 9-10)

When the Bible says, "If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen" we should probably listen. V. 10 is a sobering reminder that **everyone has an appointed time to die** (Hebrews 9:27) and **God is in control**.

- **To live for Christ takes "endurance and faithfulness from the saints." We must learn to pray, listen, submit, and trust.**

THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH (REVELATION 13:11-15)

ANOTHER BEAST

The 1st beast was from the "sea," the 2nd beast is from the earth. The symbolism of this isn't exactly clear, but the imagery may be connected to Jewish mythology.

- This will be a **religious leader and charismatic speaker** who will perform miracles and persuade people to follow the Antichrist.

2 HORNS LIKE A LAMB, BUT SPEAKING LIKE A DRAGON

This means that this corrupt, evil religious leader will appear meek and humble but will be like a dragon (Satan) with his motives (Matthew 7:15).

- This false teacher will deceive many with his "great signs." **This reminds us not to be "sign-seekers," to test all things, and to worship in Spirit and Truth!**

THIS MAY BE BIGGER THAN ONE PERSON

The beast from the earth could be a corrupt religion or a distorted version of our faith. **Things like Docetism, Relativism, and Universalism have crept into the church already.**

- **The truth is sometimes offensive, but the truth ultimately protects us. Though it may not align with culture, we must hold strong to what is biblical.**

THE UNHOLY TRINITY

Satan, the beast from the sea, and the beast from the earth make up a parody of the true Trinity of God. Satan continues to mimic and distort the things of God to further confuse humanity.

- Vs. 14-15 get really weird when an "image" of the Antichrist is made and given "breath."

AN IMAGE OF THE ANTICHRIST

The evil religious leader will have a statue built of the evil political leader. The image will "speak" and kill people who don't worship it. No one really knows what this looks like.

- **False belief always works this way: following...worshipping...killing in the name of the leader.**

THE MARK (REVELATION 13:16-18)

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

Maybe the most famous thing in Revelation is the mark of the beast. The Antichrist "makes everyone... receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark."

- People have speculated if this will be a tattoo, a chip, currency, or not literal but a belief (like our mark).

IT IS CONNECTED TO THE ECONOMY IN SOME WAY

More than likely, the crowning achievement of the Antichrist is economic. Because of this, he will change commerce in some way and be able to control who can participate.

- This will weed out Christians. We will be unable to feed our children and will become social outcasts.

IT IS A MARK OF ALLEGIANCE

Again, Satan is unoriginal and counterfeits God with his version of a mark. Satan's mark is "666," and the number is highly debated.

- 7 represents perfection and balance. If God is a perfect Trinitarian God (777), Satan's trinity is imperfect and not as good as God's (666). There are tons of other interpretations.

THE RABBIT HOLE OF GEMATRIA

People tend to go a little nuts with numbers and certain words in Revelation. Gematria is the ancient practice of using names with numbers to "interpret" Scripture.

- **The Bible isn't some map to find conspiracies; it is God's instruction and guidance on how we can better relate to Him and others.**

"THIS CALLS FOR WISDOM"

John essentially says, "See if you can crack this code." As far back as 90 A.D., people have been trying to calculate empires and leaders to see who the Antichrist is.

- **Wisdom is focusing on the majors of this book and not falling for gimmicks. We need just to pursue Christ and prepare for His return.**

COMING UP SHORT

- People have an uncanny ability to make idols. We do this with **fame, fortune, possessions, people, relationships, political parties**, and even **religious practice**.
- **The problem with idols is that they always come up short.**

WISDOM AND TRUST

- Truly wise people recognize what is counterfeit. **The only way to grow wise in the ways of the Lord and spot a counterfeit is to surround oneself with what is authentic and real.**
- Once we establish what is real, we must trust that God is in control.