

**STUDIES IN REVELATION 13 – August 7, 2022**

**“The Beast from The Sea” – Rev.13:1-2**

**“THE WONDER OF THE BEAST”**

**Intro.** Although our studies this far have led us into many hours of searching the scriptures, this chapter will consume more time than any other study before or after it, because we are beginning to be introduced to the Antichrist, the second greatest figure of the Bible, surpassed only by the Lord Jesus Christ himself.

**Intro.** To understand Revelation 13 - one must have some knowledge of the Book of Daniel. Daniel and Revelation are Siamese twins, joined together by God himself in scripture and are inseparable for a thorough understand of both. They connect, compliment and convey the meaning of each other. One magnifies and enlarges upon the truth of the other. They mirror each other as both speak about the same things, involving the same places, the same personages and the same prophecies.

Although Chapter 13 has some very *“hard things”* to interpret, to be able to get an understanding of the things that are hard to interpret we must first understand the things are easy to interpret and they'll help shine light on the harder ones. So, let's begin by separating the pieces of information about the first beast, *“the beast out of the sea.”*

In chapter 12 the conflict ended in Heaven with Satan's defeat and his final overthrow and him being cast out of heaven - **Rev.12:7-8**. He comes down to earth to persecute Israel, (the woman clothed with the sun) and to torment her for 3 ½ years. God helps her supernaturally by feeding her in a place provided for her by himself and by the use of earth's people who open their hands and hearts to help her.

Beginning in Revelation 13 we have a detailed description of Satan's all-out attack on the earth just prior to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and him being cast into the *“bottomless pit”* (**Rev.20**). It's his last attempt to defeat the program of God and establish his kingdom on earth.

As we've seen in other studies at LRBC, Satan is a spirit being and as such he cannot operate effectively on earth except through the bodies, minds, and hands of people. Thus, he embodies himself in people to achieve his goals. He knows his time is short (**Rev.12:12**) and so he walks through the earth in rage and fury to do as much damage as he can. In Chapter 12 we have a Word about Satan's Hostility and in Chapter 13 we see the Work of Satan's Hostility. In this chapter the two worst human beings ever to inhabit earth come into focus. They are called, *“beasts”*. They are not actual animals but men, men with beast like natures and characters. They are called beasts because of their cruel and deadly reign over earth's inhabitants.

The Lamb who opened the seven sealed book in chapter 5 is about to come and take back what rightfully belongs to him. Satan knows this, therefore he makes one last great battle plan and executes it in hopes of defeating God and his Sovereign Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ, by attacking God's people on the earth. For the next 3 ½ years earth will be under complete control of the devil and his demons, being run by the two beasts recorded in this chapter. Satan's reign of terror on the earth will be carried out by the hands of his own son, *“the son of perdition”* - Satan incarnate. The *“beast”*, although a man, is a symbol of the last great world powers leaders to reign over all nations and kingdoms of the earth. He will reign until the time of the *“end”*. The **reason** that I say he is last of earth's kingdom rulers is that when this beast is destroyed in **Rev.19**, earth goes directly into the Millennium and then into eternity and there is no record of another earthly kingdom, except the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Just as God came to earth in flesh through the means of a human being/ body, (Jesus Christ) to reign over it, so Satan will come to earth in the body of a man, (the *“son of perdition”*) with his intent to rule over earth. Jesus said, *“He that hath seen me hath seen the Father”* and to see the Antichrist is to see Satan. This is the period prophesied by Daniel, Jesus, the apostle Paul and the Apostle John (**Dan.7-12;**

Chapter 13 tells us of the arrival of these two beasts and of the bloody terror that they unleash on the earth after the church is caught up to heaven. The first beast appears out of the “sea” Rev.13:1-10, while the second comes up out of the earth - Rev.13:11-18. Both are Satanically controlled men. These two beasts become the major focal point in the last half of Daniel's 70 week, i.e. the last half of the tribulation period. They are mentioned more than any other character in the book of the Revelation, other than the Lamb of God. (Note: Rev.13:1,2,3,4,14,15, 17,18; 14:9,11; 16:2,10,13; 17:7,8,11,12,13,16,17.)

One of these two men is commonly called the “Antichrist” although the word Antichrist itself is not found in the Book of the Revelation. The word “Antichrist” is found only in John's writings (I Jn.2:18,22; 4:3; and II Jn.7.

### “THE WONDER OF THE BEAST” vs.1-2

#### 1. HIS RISE v.1 *“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea”.*

This 1<sup>st</sup> beast rises up out of the sea whereas the second beast rises up out of the earth. Compare Rev.13:11 *“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth.”*

*These are 2 individual and separate personages.*

In the end times Satan will establish two Great World Powers symbolized as beasts to control the earth.

1. The First is a False Prince - heading up a Political System = the 1<sup>st</sup> beast – vs.1-10  
This is a World Federation of Nations! The Head is the Anti-Christ! All nations of the earth unite under the headship of this “beast”. (Revelation 17 must be understood to see the full picture.)
2. The Second is a False Prophet - heading up a Religious System = the 2<sup>nd</sup> beast – vs.11-18. For a better understanding of this religious system headed up by the False Prophet we will have to examine Rev.17 also.  
This is a World Federation of Churches! The Head is the False Prophet. Rev.17.  
All of earth's inhabitants will worship one way through an Apostate Church.

#### An important question to be answered is what is meant by the “sea”?

Commentators are divided about what this sea is. The most commonly held opinion (which I don't fully agree with), is that it speaks of the “masses of people”. This is without doubt somewhat true, as the sea speaks of turbulence, restlessness and agitation; and the Antichrist will rise from a mass of people in a world that's in turbulence & restlessness. This opinion is derived from Rev.17:15 *“...The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.”* Another reference that is used to defend the position is Rev.20:8 *“the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.”* Believing that this is the meaning of the word then we are left with no idea as to where the Antichrist arises from.

I have done a study on the Biblical references to the term “The Sea” in the scriptures. It almost always speaks of a specific sea, i.e. the Mediterranean Sea.

Note the references - Dan.7:1-3 *“the great sea”* = sea as in Rev.13:1 – the great sea is always the Mediterranean Sea. Cp. Num.34:3-12; Joshua 1:4; 15:12,47; 23:4; Eze.47:15,19,20,28.

In all of these references the sea is the Mediterranean.

Then this first beast is to rise from the area around the Mediterranean Sea.

2. **HIS REIGN** v.1 “having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns. and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.”

Herein begins a slow and methodical study of our text verses to arrive at the truth of the personage and power of the first beast.

Note: Seven heads support 10 horns! Will be important in a later study.

**1<sup>st</sup> note the Information as compared to Rev.12:3** - close consideration of these 2 passages of scripture reveals that they are not the same beast, but are closely connected to each other.

Note: their comparisons and their contrasts.

Important note: Rev.12 is before Satan is cast out of heaven and Rev.13 is after he is cast out of heaven. (This is important when we understand the difference in where and how many crowns are on each beast, i.e. the beast of Rev.12:3 & 13:1)

- a. 3:1 “a beast” .....a. Rev.12:2 “a great red dragon” = Satan v.9
- b. 13:1 “seven heads” ..... b. Rev.12:3 “seven heads”= the same!
- c. 13:1 “ten horns” ..... c. Rev.12:3 “ten horns”= the same!
- d. 13:1 “ten crowns” ..... d. Rev.12:3 “seven crowns”= different!
- e. 13:1 “crowns on horns”..... e. Rev.12:3 “crowns on heads” = different!

(So there are 2 similarities and three major differences. The 2 similarities are the 7 heads and the 10 horns. The 3 differences are one is a dragon and the other is a beast; and on the dragon the 7 heads are crowned, and on the beast the 10 horns are crowned.)

Note: the “dragon” in Rev.12:3 with 7 heads and 10 horns and 7 crowns on his heads is Satan, the devil himself - cp. Rev.12:9; while the “beast” of Rev.13:1 is what Satan becomes after he is cast out of heaven to earth in Rev.12:9.

**1<sup>st</sup> – The Information in Rev.12:3 compared to the information in Rev.13:1**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – What is the meaning of the “heads” and the “crowns”?**

- a. “Heads” = heads of anything, metaphorically means anything supreme, chief, or in prominence. (Like heads of state, head of house or head coach etc.)
- b. “Crowns” – always speaks of a king reigning over a kingdom. Note: You can't crown a kingdom, you can only crown the king of a kingdom. So, this seven headed, ten homed, 7 crowned dragon of Rev.12:3 has reigned over the earth by means of seven earthly kings and kingdoms in time past, and is yet to reign over it in the future by means of a seven headed, ten homed beast, crowned with 10 crowns. In other words, after Satan is cast out of heaven (Rev.12:9) he'll come to earth (Rev.12:9) and rule the earth by means of ten kings making up ten kingdoms.

Note: (In Daniel's vision the interpretation was that the image represented a “king” before it represented a “kingdom”. **Note Dan.7:3 & 17,23.**

In Daniel's interpretation, he makes it plain that the beast is **First** a “king” and then a “kingdom” – Dan.7:3, 17,23.

By not perceiving this many expositors make the mistake of identifying the first beast of Rev.13 as the Revived Roman Empire - ONLY, and fail to make the connection that he is first a man, (a king), and then a kingdom. A “king” and then a “kingdom” is the way Daniel interpreted his vision.

(This is seen to be of great importance when trying to identify the 1<sup>st</sup> beast in Rev.13.)

- c. “Horns” = an emblem of power and rule in scripture. An animal with horns had greater

power than one without horns. The 10 horns speak of “confederated power.” A collision of powers.

d. The “Dragon” is the devil, Satan, the Serpent **12:9**. Satan then has reigned over the earth in the past by means of 7 kings and 7 kingdoms (12:3), and will yet reign in the future over the earth by means of a ten-nation confederacy (13:1). The timeframe of these two periods of Satan's reign is separated by before and after Satan is cast out of heaven Rev.12:9.

e. The “Beast” (13:1) rules over the earth by means of 10 kings and 10 kingdoms. This beast gets his power and authority to reign over the earth from the devil. 13:2 *“the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”*

“Power” = strength, ability, influence, resources. Word most often used to describe - miraculous power, power to work miracles. Cp. **II Thes.8-9**.

**Rev.13:4** *“they worshipped the dragon (12:9 = Satan, the devil) which gave power unto the beast.”* Satan gives his power and authority to this beast/man.

Cp. **Lk.4:5-7** *“And the devil taking him (the Lord Jesus) up into a high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.v.6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. v.7 If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.”* Jesus refused Satan's offer & went on to die at Calvary. The man of sin, the son of Satan, the Antichrist will accept the offer to be the world leader by selling himself to Satan and will condemn his immortal soul to the lake of fire forever by so doing. “Seat” = **II Thes.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.* The seat in the rebuilt Jewish temple in Jerusalem.

“Authority” = **13:1** = (exousia) power of choice, liberty to do as one pleases, leave of permission, ability, force, mastery, jurisdiction!

1<sup>st</sup> – the information in Rev.12:3 compare with the information in Rev.13:1

2<sup>nd</sup> – What is the meaning of “heads” and “crowns”?

3<sup>rd</sup> – Who or What is the Beast in Revelation 13:1-10? – This is one of the most debated subjects in the book of the Revelation. (I'm not going to spend time mentioning all of the foolish and erroneous beliefs, of which there are many.) There are really only two beliefs that are worth considering. (I'm going to teach the one that I'm confident is the correct one, but before I do, I want to give some time to what several good and able expositors believe, of which I'm confident is incorrect.)

#### The two teachings as to who or what this first beast is.

a. The INCORRECT Teaching = The Revived Roman Empire ONLY. Their teaching on this is both right and wrong. (Examine why I say this in a minute.) This theory is taught by many Bible expositors. One reason for so many teaching this is that popular preachers taught it and they just ran with it without thinking it through. Many of the same men who teach this to be the Revived Roman Empire only, flip flop back and forwards from it being the Anti-Christ and the Roman Empire. They really saw the imperativeness of it being both but were not willing to say it is both. (Note: those who teach that this 1<sup>st</sup> beast is the Revived Roman Empire only are forced to make the mistake of calling the 2<sup>nd</sup> beast (v.11) the Antichrist, when in fact he is the *“False Prophet.”*)

2. The **CORRECT** Teaching = This 1<sup>st</sup> beast is **both** the **Anti-Christ** and the **Revived Roman Empire**. Both a King & a Kingdom, a **Real Person** and a **Representative Person**. This **“beast”** king and kingdom is **Daniel's 4 dreadful king and kingdom - Daniel 7:7-8** -who is the last kingdom before the coming of the kingdom of **Christ – Daniel 7:9-14, 17-18**. Compare also the words of **Daniel 2:37** “king” then a “kingdom”. Cp. **“The truth of the fourth beast” Daniel 7:9- 21, 23-27.**

This **“beast”** of **Revelation 13:1** is also the fourth part of King Nebuchadnezzar's image – **Daniel 2:37-43** – specifically **vs.40-43**.

**Explanation as to why I'm convinced that the theory of this 1<sup>st</sup> beast being the Revived Roman Empire ONLY is INCORRECT and that it's both the Anti-Christ and the Revived Roman Empire.** Let me give **5 major reasons** as to why I'm convinced that to say this 1<sup>st</sup> beast is the revived Roman Empire only is wrong.

**1. It's clearly stated that this beast is a “man” - Rev.13:8 “It is the number of a man...”.** **Personal Pronouns** are given to him throughout chapter 13 and beyond.

**2. Only a person can be cast into the lake of fire.** If this beast is the Revived Roman Empire, the Roman Empire being **“land mass and political and governmental establishment”**, then how can a land mass and government be cast into the lake of fire? Explanation **Rev.13:1** “beast” compared with **Rev.19:20** **“These both (beast and false prophet) were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.** “Neither a land mass or a political and governmental institution can be cast **“alive”** into the lake of fire. **“Alive”** = (zao) = breathe, a living and breathing thing! Land mass and a governmental institution are not living breathing things. cp. **Rev.20:10** **“...where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”**

(Note: if the beast of **Rev.13:1** is the revived Roman Empire, how could a mass of land be cast alive into a lake of fire and brimstone and be tormented for ever and ever?) cp. **Daniel 7:11** **“I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.”** This is the same person that John is speaking about in **Rev.13:1**. He has a **“body”** that can be cast into a burning flame.

**3. An Image is made to the beast and worshipped.** Compare **Rev.13:14** – **2<sup>nd</sup> beast (13:11)** comes up with the idea to make an image of the 1<sup>st</sup> beast. If the first beast is the Revived Roman Empire then the image made to it would be an image of the Revived Roman Empire and that image would be worshipped. Again, we are told that the beast is a man. The image made of the beast is then the image of a man, not the image of the Revived Roman Empire. (Example: Image made of or to Nebuchadnezzar, **Daniel 3** - image was not made of Babylon.) This **“image”** of the beast is the **“abomination of desolation”** spoken about by both Jesus & Daniel **Mt.24:15; Dan.**

**4. The beast is in the bottomless pit now and ascends out of it at a future time.**

**Rev.17:8** **“And the beast (the same beast as we're talking about in Rev.13:1) that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit and go into perdition”.** Although we'll discuss the meaning of this passage of scripture when we arrive at it in a few weeks,



my interest in it now is, “How can the Roman Empire (land mass and political system) be in the bottomless pit now and yet ascend out of it later?????” Foolishness! **Cp. Rev.11:7** This means that this beast must be in the bottomless pit now. This also means that as a man he must have been upon the earth at one time & then died and went to the bottomless pit to await his appearance on the earth at the given time.

**Note:** The beast that goes into perdition in **Rev.17:8** is the same beast that's being discussed in **Rev.13:1**. This reason I know this is by comparing **Rev.17:3** “*the scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns*” - compare **Rev.13:1** “*names of blasphemy*”. In other words, the beast going into perdition is not the 2<sup>nd</sup> beast of **Rev.13:11**, i.e. the false prophet, because he doesn't have the names of blasphemy written on his **two horns**. The false prophet only has two horns with no names of blasphemy written upon them while the beast of **Rev.13:1** has seven heads and ten horns with names of blasphemy written on his seven heads - **Rev.13:1**.

It's also said in this passage that when the beast ascends out of the bottomless pit that it “*goes into perdition*”. “**Perdition**” = damnation! The Revived Roman Empire cannot go into perdition, damnation! This can only be said of a person. (We'll discuss this word “*perdition*” and its full meaning in another study.)

**5. If the 1<sup>st</sup> beast is the Revived Roman Empire only, then one has to make the 2<sup>nd</sup> beast the Anti-Christ. Again, there are reasons why this cannot be correct.** This would make the 2<sup>nd</sup> beast both the Anti-Christ and the False prophet, (which is what those must believe who teach the theory of the 1<sup>st</sup> beast being the Revived Roman Empire only) and yet it's said in **Rev.19:20** that the beast and the false prophet “**both**” were cast into the lake of fire. “**Both**” implies separate identities. In other words, the false prophet which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> beast and the 1<sup>st</sup> beast are not one and the same. This would create strong reason to believe that the 1<sup>st</sup> beast is the Anti-Christ and the 2<sup>nd</sup> one is the False Prophet.

(Review: For these 5 reasons and it becomes clear that the first beast is the Anti-Christ and the Revived Roman Empire.) We'll have to discuss the meaning of the Revived Roman Empire in another study.

**In Conclusion:** (We'll have to fine tune this in another study), the 1<sup>st</sup> Beast is both the **Anti-Christ**, the 4<sup>th</sup> great **king** of Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel's visions - (a very **Real Person**), and the Revived Roman Empire (Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel's 4<sup>th</sup> great kingdom) – a **Representative Person** for the kingdom. Remember the Bible always recognizes a king as being the greatest part of the kingdom. This leads us to believe that the 1<sup>st</sup> beast is both a **Real Person** and a **Representative Person** – i.e. **A King and A Kingdom**. The Anti-Christ as a Person is the Satanic head of the Kingdom. He is the Sovereign and Supreme head of the Kingdom. (There is no such thing as an Empire without an Emperor. There is no such thing as a sovereign domain power without somebody to wield the reigns of authority. A one world government demands a one world leader.)

**This leader is called:** (Although there are other names, these seem to be the most easily perceived.)

1. “*the beast out of the sea*” – **Rev.13:**
2. “*the MAN of sin*” – **II Thes.2:3**
3. “*the son of perdition*” – **II Thes.2:3**
4. “*that Wicked*” – **II Thes.2:8**
5. “*the little horn*” – **Dan.7:8,20,21**
6. “*the vile person*” – **Dan.11:21**

7. “*the willful king*” – **Dan.11:36**
8. “*antichrist*” – **I Jn.2:18**
9. “*seed of the serpent*” – **Gen.3:15**
10. “*the prince that shall come*” – **Dan.9:26**
11. “*profane wicked prince*” – **Eze.21:25-27**

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12. *“foolish shepherd”* – **Zech.11:15**
13. *“idol shepherd”* – **Zech.11:17**
14. *“the willful king”* – **Dan.11:36**
15. Probably? *“the angel of the bottomless pit”* **Rev.9:11**
16. *“the rider on the white horse”* – **Rev.6:2**
17. *“the Assyrian”* – **Isa.10:5, 12**

This beast, the Anti-Christ, through Satan himself being incarnated in a man on the earth, will rule the earth, (after the church is raptured to heaven and Satan is cast out of heaven), by means of a 10-nation confederacy being given HIS power by Satan himself who is now on earth. By the time the earth reaches this hour it will be in a state of turmoil. Millions are missing by the rapture. Earth’s economy has collapsed as it did in Egypt under Pharaoh (a picture of Satan and his kingdom.). The earth will be in a state of war and rumors of war, earthquakes, famines, pestilences. Death and carnage are walking through the earth with hurricane force. Earth will be ready for a man who can rule it and bring some sort of stability to it. He will be the solution to earths problems, at least so earth's inhabitants think! (We'll enlarge upon these 10 horns and heads etc. a little later.)

In this study we looked at two major thoughts under the main heading of **“The Wonder of The Beast”**.

**1. His Rise v.1** *“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast **rise up** out of the sea.”*

**2. His Reign v.1** *“having seven heads and the horns, and upon his horns ten **crowns**”* -For time's sake we're forced to deal with these *“seven heads, ten horns, and ten crowns”* in another study.

In our next study we'll enlarge upon **verse 2:**

**3. His Resemblance v.2** *“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: ...”*