

## ***The Beast (Antichrist) – Revelation 13***

### I. Biblical Backdrop of the Antichrist

- a. The Book of Revelation is not the only book in the Bible that speaks about the end of the age Antichrist. What John sees in **Revelation 13** only affirms what God previously revealed throughout other scriptures. Though there are many Old Testament writings related to the antichrist, the prophet Daniel gives us the clearest picture in the Old Testament of the him. As we read **Revelation 13**, we have to understand and interpret it through the lens of a 1<sup>st</sup> century person who was familiar with prophetic books like Daniel. Daniel helps us interpret the meaning and message related to the Antichrist found in **Revelation 13**.
- b. In **Daniel chapter 2**, Daniel is brought before King Nebuchadnezzar to interpret his troubling dreams for him (**Daniel 2:25-28**). The king’s troubling dream included a great statue with a gold head, silver chest (and arms), it’s “belly” and thighs were bronze, and its legs were iron, also the feet were partly iron & partly clay (**Daniel 2:31-33**). Nebuchadnezzar then saw a Stone that crushed each part of the statue at the same time and that Stone became a great mountain and filled the earth (**Daniel 2:34-35**). In his interpretation of the dream, Daniel reveals that each part of this statue represents a series of kingdoms that would replace/crush/defeat/succeed Nebuchadnezzar. The Stone that crushes all of the kingdoms (at the same time **Daniel 2:35**) is a picture of Jesus Millennial Kingdom, which will conquer the entirety of these empires at the same time.
  - i. Head of Gold – Babylon [Modern Day Iraq]/Nebuchadnezzar (**Daniel 2:36-38**)
  - ii. Silver Chest & Arms – Medo-Persia [Modern Day Iran] (**Daniel 2:29**)
  - iii. Belly & Thighs of Bronze – Greece (**Daniel 2:29**)
  - iv. Iron legs – Turkish/Ottoman Empire [Islamic Caliphate] (**Daniel 2:40**) [*Classically taught as Rome*]
  - v. Feet of Iron & Clay – Revived Islamic Caliphate (**Daniel 2:41-43**) [*Classically taught as a “revived Roman Empire”*]
  - vi. The Crushing Stone – The Millennial Kingdom (**Daniel 2:44-45**)
- c. **Daniel 7** is a “sister prophecy” related to **Daniel 2**. In **Daniel 7**, Daniel gets a vision of 4 different beasts. Babylon is represented as a Lion, Medo-Persia is represented as a Bear, Greece is represented as a 4-headed leopard with wings, and then there’s a fourth beast with ten horns (**Daniel 7:1-8**). Daniel then see’s an 11<sup>th</sup> “little horn” with “eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts” arise among the other 10 (**Daniel 7:8**).
- d. Daniel then asked an angel for the interpretation of the dream/vision he had. The angel interprets the beasts as the 4 kingdoms, pulling on king Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in **Daniel 2** (**Daniel 7:17-18**). The Angel then interprets the specifics of the 4<sup>th</sup> beast/kingdom, the ten-horns, and the “little horn”.

***(Daniel 7:23-28 NASB) “This is what he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth which will be different from all the other kingdoms, and will devour the whole earth and trample it down and crush it. 24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will humble three kings. 25 And he will speak against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time [3 ½ Years]. 26 But the court will convene for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. 27 Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One;***

*His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the empires will serve and obey Him.’ 28 “At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face became pale, but I kept the matter to myself.”*

- i. The fourth beast – Revived Islamic Caliphate.
  - ii. Ten horns – 10 kings that will arise at the end of the age and ultimately side with the 4<sup>th</sup> beast and the Antichrist.
  - iii. Another horn (little horn **Daniel 7:8**) – The Antichrist who speaks against the Most High and “wear’s down” the saints of the “Highest One” for 3 ½ Years.
- e. **Daniel 8** and **11** give us more imagery related to the Antichrist and what he will do.

*(Daniel 8:9-12 NASB) “And out of one of them came a rather small horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Beautiful Land. 10 It grew up to the heavenly lights, and some of the lights, that is, some of the stars it threw down to the earth, and it trampled them. 11 It even exalted itself to be equal with the Commander of the army; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was overthrown. 12 And because of an offense the army will be given to the horn along with the regular sacrifice; and it will hurl truth to the ground and do as it pleases and be successful.”*

- i. Small horn – Antichrist
- ii. Some of the stars it threw down to earth – **Revelation 12**
- iii. Exalted itself to be equal with the Commander of the army – The Antichrist will declare that He is “better than God”. I believe this includes the abomination of desolation.
- iv. Removed the regular sacrifice – Cutting of the sacrifices at the 3 ½ year mar of the tribulation.

*(Daniel 11:36-38 NASB) “Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt himself and boast against every god and will speak dreadful things against the God of gods; and he will be successful until the indignation is finished, because that which is determined will be done. 37 And he will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will boast against them all. 38 But instead he will honor a god of fortresses [war], a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor him with gold, silver, precious stones, and treasures.”*

- v. Exalt himself and boast against every god – The Antichrist isn’t going to say that “he is the God of the Bible”, He will speak against the God of the Bible and Jesus the Messiah.
  - vi. He will honor a god of fortresses [war] – The Antichrist “has a god” and it is a god of war.
- f. Jesus reiterates the vision of Daniel in His teaching on the end of the age by telling us to watch out for the abomination of desolation (**Matthew 24:15**), and “false christ’s” (**Matthew 24:23-24**).

*(Matthew 24:15 NASB) “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place—let the reader understand”*

*(Matthew 24:23-24 NASB) “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘He is over here,’ do not believe him. 24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and will provide great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.”*

- g. Paul also speaks of the antichrist as the “man of lawlessness” and the “son of destruction” and tells of the Abomination of Desolation. The Antichrist and the abomination of desolation are major sign events that help us determine where we’re at in the “timeline”.

**(2 Thessalonians 2:3-5 NASB) “No one is to deceive you in any way! For it [the day of the Lord/ 2<sup>nd</sup> coming & rapture of the saints] will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.”**

- h. John also gives insight into the “theology” of the Antichrist in **1 John 2:22-23**. The Antichrist, will not claim to be God, he will claim to be “better than” God and will deny the power and authority of God. This is what fuels the rage of the nations in **Psalm 2**.

**(1 John 2:22-23 NASB) “Who is the liar except the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. 23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also”**

## II. The Beast From The Sea

**(Revelation 13:1-3 NASB) “And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten crowns, and on his heads were blasphemous names. 2 And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne, and great authority. 3 I saw one of his heads as if it had been fatally wounded, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast”**

- a. Out of the sea – The sea is representative of the gentile nations. The Beast at the end of the age will be supported by gentile nations.

**(Revelation 17:15 NASB) “And he said to me, ‘The waters which you saw where the prostitute sits are peoples and multitudes, and nations and languages.’”**

**(Isaiah 60:5 NASB) “Then you will see and be radiant, And your heart will thrill and rejoice; Because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, The wealth of the nations will come to you.”**

- b. It’s important to note, that the Beast has taken on the same appearance of the Dragon in Revelation 12. In a sort of “evil mockery”, as Jesus reflects the father (**Hebrews 1:3**), the Beast reflects the Dragon. Both the Dragon and Beast appeared to have 7 heads and 10 horns.
- c. Ten horns – Based on the context in Daniel, we know that the ten horns are ten kings that will emerge and side with the Beast at the end of the age. Furthermore, an angel tells John once more what the 10 kings are in **Revelation 17** and explains that these ten kings will give their authority to the Beast.

**(Revelation 17:12-13 NASB) “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. 13 These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.”**

- d. Seven heads – In **Revelation 17:3** we see the Beast (*Antichrist Empire*) who, like the dragon, also has seven heads and ten horns. Comparing **Revelation 12** and **17:7-11** leads us understand with clarity that the 7 heads represent 7 historical nations that functioned in the “antichrist spirit” by conquering and persecuting Israel (specifically Jerusalem). The seven Nations are: *Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and Turkish/Ottoman Empire (Islamic Caliphate)*.

**(Revelation 17:7,9 NASB) “And the angel said to me, “Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns...9 Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains upon which the woman sits, 10 and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.**

- e. Like a leopard, feet like a bear, mouth like a mouth of a lion – This statement pulls on the vision from **Daniel 7**. The leopard, bear, and lion are the first 3 beasts that Daniel saw. This 4<sup>th</sup> beast will be a composite of the first three beasts. All three beasts are carnivorous speaking of their hunger for flesh and blood. The leopard speaks of the swiftness that enable it to catch its prey, the feet (claws) of a bear speak of how it rips apart it's prey, and the lions mouth speaks of it ability to devour. The Antichrist will display these qualities as an evil emperor.
- f. The dragon gave him his power and his throne, and great authority – In his desperation, Satan will give this man (The Antichrist) his power, throne, and great authority. The Antichrist will be empowered by Satan himself, which is how he so quickly conquers cultures throughout the earth.
- g. One of his heads as if it had been fatally wounded, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast – This undeniably speaks of the “resurrection” of the Antichrist’s Kingdom (Islamic Caliphate), but could also find literal fulfillment. It’s possible that the Antichrist will suffer a fatal head wound and be “resurrected” causing the world to be amazed and convinced to follow Him. Either way, the main point is, the emergence of this man on the global stage will cause the nations to follow him.

### III. Antichrist & Satan Worship

***(Revelation 13:4-6 NASB) “They [the earth] worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?” 5 A mouth was given to him speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.”***

- a. They worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast – The world will see and know when Satan gives his authority to the beast; this is why the earth will worship Satan. It might seem unfathomable for “Satan worship” to be that common on the earth, but remember after decades of birth pangs where “evil is called good, and good called evil” (**Isaiah 5:20**), deception will finally reach it height in the Great Tribulation causing millions to literally worship Satan.

***(Revelation 9:20-21 NASB) “The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands so as not to worship demons and the idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; 21 and they did not repent of their murders, nor of their witchcraft, nor of their sexual immorality, nor of their thefts.”***

- b. They worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?” – The earth will also worship the beast because he will be a conquering man of war that (seemingly) no one can stand against. This speaks to the effectiveness of expanding his authority throughout the earth.
- c. A mouth was given to him speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. – John sees the Antichrist in the same way that Daniel spoke about him (**Daniel 7:8,20,25**). He will blatantly speak against God, His purposes, and the followers of Christ by denying their identity in Christ. We see here that the Beast will have authority for 42 months (3 ½ years, 1260 days) to act. I believe that Jesus, the rightful ruler of the earth with all authority, is the one who gives the beast his authority for this “short time” in order to bring in the most amount of people to the deepest level of His love without violating anyone’s free will.

#### IV. The Antichrist's War With The Saints

***(Revelation 13:7-9 NASB) “It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority was given to him over every tribe, people, language, and nation. 8 All who live on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written since the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slaughtered. 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10 If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.”***

- a. The Antichrist Empire is where Israel and gentile believers receive their opposition and “tribulation” from (Not the judgments of God). The Antichrist will “make war” with believers in Jesus and will overcome them. This will touch “every tribe, people, language, and nation” (***Daniel 7:21***). Persecution and martyrdom will be rampant across the globe during the final years of this age. Though God will provide in the midst, it does not deny the severity of the opposition we’ll face.

***(Daniel 11:33 NASB) “And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for many days. 34 Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy. 35 And some of those who have insight will fall, to refine, purge, and cleanse them until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time.”***

- b. ***Verse 10*** depicts not only death by the sword, but also “prison camps” for believers in Jesus. Many believers that are not killed will be taken as captives and tortured (similar to how the Nazi’s tortured the Jewish people). The end of ***verse 10*** calls the saints to persevere despite the unique and overwhelming challenges of persecution. It’s no wonder that Jesus taught often on endurance through persecution. This call to persevere despite persecution is a beautiful and unique invitation to walk in the steps of Jesus as He took on the cross.

***(Luke 21:19 NASB) “By your endurance you will gain your lives.”***

***(Matthew 5:10-12 NASB) “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in this same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”***

***(Revelation 2:9-10 NASB) “I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the slander by those who say they are Jews, and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”***

#### Questions For Discussion

1. What was one thing that was highlighted to you or stuck out in tonight’s teaching?
2. Did this teaching bring clarity to a thought or question you had related to the end times?
3. How does this teaching mobilize you to pray? (***1 Peter 4:7 NASB) “The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer”***