

During the Tribulation, as the unseen ruler of this world, Satan will have complete rule through the man of lawlessness, the beast, for a short time.

Remember: The Beast has 7 heads or kingdoms: 5 have fallen [Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo/Persia, Greece]; 1 is [Rome in John's day]; 1 is yet to come [#7- start of Tribulation]

- The first $3\frac{1}{2}$ years [Head #7]: The harlot woman rides the beast. [Rev. 17]
- During the first $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, the Antichrist has headed a 10-nation confederation.
- He began his career as the one coming on a white horse as a peacemaker [Rev. 6:2].
- He "settled" the Arab-Israeli problems by making a covenant with the Jews to protect them for 7 years. [Dan. 9:27]
 - ❖ This is the start of Daniel's 70th week = 7 years.
 - ❖ Permit Israel to rebuild the temple; reinstitute religious rituals [Dan. 9:27; Rev. 11:1]
- In the middle of the 7 years, the Antichrist will break the covenant, stop the ceremonies and set himself up as "god" in the temple.
[Abomination of desolation: Dan. 9:27; II Thess. 2:1-12]
- War in Heaven [Rev. 12] Satan is now on earth and indwells the antichrist.
- The rider on the white horse is actually a great source of darkness for the world.
- The white horse rider who won his territory by peace tactics, now becomes the beast under the possession of Satan himself.

Rev. 11:7 He takes on a different look. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them [2 witnesses], and shall overcome them and kill them.

Rev. 12:13-17 describes the persecution of God's people by the dragon, Satan.

¹³And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, [3 $\frac{1}{2}$ yrs.] from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Rev. 13 = Persecution Of God's People By The Dragon-Energized Beasts

Rev. 13 describes Satan's strategy and plan to persecute God's people and worship Satan.

The Dragon uses 3 political/religious powers to carry out the plan.

- Rev. 13:1-10 The Beast From The Sea Antichrist
 - 13:1-2 Its identity
 - 13:3-10 Its activities
- Rev. 13:11-13 The Beast From The Earth False Prophet
 - 13:11 Its identity
 - 13:12-13 Its activities
- Rev. 13:14-18 The Image Of The Beast
 - 13:14 Its identity
 - 13:15-18 Its activities

Satan on earth, unleashing his massive effort to defeat God & set up his own kingdom. In order to work out his diabolical plan in the world, he has to do it through humanity. He needs a man to lead other men. There will come a demon-possessed man.

Rev. 13:1-2 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having 7 heads and 10 horns, and upon his horns 10 crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 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: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

NOW, he is about to emerge as Satan's world dictator. [history's 1st true WORLD dictator]

- Kingdom #8 - Little horn, antichrist, as dictator energized by Satan
- He is described as a wild animal under the control of Satan.
- He is a man [Rev. 13:18], but he is energized from hell.
- He comes out of the pit. [Rev. 11:7; 17:8]
- Just as Jesus Christ is God in the flesh, so "the beast" will be Satan in a human body.
 - John 13:2, 27 And after the sop [bread] Satan entered into him. [Judas]

The great red dragon is standing [symbolically] over the nations of the world as if he possesses them. John said, "I saw a beast coming up out of the sea."

He will then implement the system of the beast to carry out his desired goals:

- Persecute Israel and God's people
- Be worshiped

Satan presents his great "masterpiece," the Antichrist, to the world. What's next?

1. There will be WONDER

Rev. 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

A terrified world will wonder at Antichrist's power and his sudden rise to international fame and authority. Mankind will also wonder at the healing of his "wound." What is this "wound"?

John mentions it 3 times [Rev. 13:3, 12, 14], including the fact that it was sword-inflicted. After this wondrous event, the world will be totally enthralled by the Antichrist.

- One of the empire's heads will bear the evidence of a mortal wound, the scar that would indicate a mortal wound.

Rev. 13:12b ...causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

Rev. 13:14b "The beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life."

Rev. 17:8 "The beast that you saw was and is not and is about to come up out of the abyss."

Rev. 17:11 "The beast which was and is not is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven and goes to destruction."

Rev. 13:3 One of the heads had a mortal killing wound.

Two interpretations:

1. It refers to one of the kingdoms that was destroyed and comes back.

Remember: It is often hard to distinguish between the king and the kingdom because the kingdom is the personification of the king. [Hitler & 3rd Reich]

Rev. 17:10 also teaches us that these seven heads are also seven kings.

Rev. 17:8, 11 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit [abyss], and go into perdition: And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

- The beast that was and is not = He is the 8th who will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go into perdition.

Bible.org [Keathley]

Rev. 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: It is the head which "was" [Old Rome = Kingdom #6]

- and is not = fallen Roman empire in its fragmented condition
- and is about to come = Revived empire during the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation Period
10 toes or horns > 10 nation confederacy [Kingdom #7]
- even he is the 8th = Imperial Form with The Beast in last 3 ½ years [Little horn]
- The words, "was, is not, and is about to come" = fatal wound that was healed.

Interesting: The revival of this future empire is considered a miracle and a demonstration of the power of Satan. [one of his heads = a kingdom]

- ❖ The head that was wounded and comes back would be Rome which was shattered.
- ❖ Amazing miracle > the revival of the Roman Empire.
- ❖ The world is amazed that this man can rise to re-create the confederacy of Rome > the new Roman Empire.
- ❖ It would cause them to fall at his feet and say, "If you can do that, take over."

Scofield: Fragments of the ancient roman Empire have never ceased to exist as separate kingdoms.

It was the imperial form of government which ceased = the one head "wounded to death."

Rev. 13:3 is the restoration of the imperial form. The head is "healed," or restored.

There is an emperor again which is the beast [little horn].

Consider: This makes good sense until you look at the other passages which state the individual himself [the beast] is slain and then comes up out of the abyss.

2. Some believe the antichrist who has become a great world leader is killed at some point during the first half. Then he comes back to life empowered by a demon from the abyss.
 - ❖ Has the death been faked? Bible says > He will deceive the whole world.

Perhaps there is some kind of satanic ruse pulled off whereby the antichrist supposedly rises from the dead.

II Thess. 2:9 The antichrist comes with the working of Satan. He will win the world over because of his power, his signs and his lying wonders.

Rev. 13:14 The false prophet who comes alongside the beast deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which were given to him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.

- Maybe one of the deceptions is that this individual is back to life.

This will bring him worldwide acclaim as he rises, as it were, from the dead and demonstrates his ability to bring back a whole empire. This has a potent effect. The whole earth was amazed, fascinated. He will immediately become the idol of the world. They are so traumatized and enamored with him that they follow after him. Why?

- II Thess. 2:10 "because they didn't receive the love of the truth so as to be saved, and for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false." Maybe what is false is that resurrection. But they believe it because they reject the truth and he becomes the recognized leader of the world.

J. Vernon McGee: The beast is a man who will exhibit a counterfeit and imitation resurrection. This will be a great delusion; the big lie of the last 3 ½ years.

- God will give them over to believe the big lie. [II Thess. 2:11].

Some Consider: This is either a fake death or a fake resurrection. This man could actually be killed and they could fabricate some kind of electronic man who could make the whole world believe he was still alive. Is this the function of the false prophet?

Rev. 13:15a And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak...

Some commentators think it will be a resurrected Judas. Why do they say that?

- Because Judas is also called son of perdition in John 17:12.
- That's the title of antichrist in I Thess. 2:3.
- John 6:70 Jesus said to Judas, "One of you is a devil."
- Luke 22 says Satan entered into Judas.
- Acts 1:25 from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

Some have suggested the antichrist will claim he is the Christ spirit reincarnated.

- More people would be inclined to accept reincarnation than resurrection.
- The concept of reincarnation appeals to much of the religious world.

Perhaps he can convince the world that he was here as the Christ and now Christ's spirit is back again in him. The tremendous things he can do may convince the world through the lying signs and wonders that he indeed is the reincarnation of the Christ spirit.

He appears as a supernatural conquering hero and one that transcends death.

- The world has experienced the 7 seals and the 7 trumpet judgments.
- People must be living in the terror and the sheer horror of death.
- $\frac{1}{4}$ of the world is killed during the seals. $\frac{1}{3}$ of the world is killed during the trumpets.
- If he individual can convince people that he is the life that transcends death, he will gain their acclaim.

2. There will be WORSHIP. Fascination turns to worship.

Rev. 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

This will be a pivotal moment for Satan and his Antichrist.

- Man will believe the Antichrist is invincible as they recall his meteoric rise to power, his great victories, his overwhelming personality, his miraculous healing.
- Countless people who will not love the truth of the Gospel so as to be saved are deceived to the point they literally worship this man as if he were God.
- They worship the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast whom they worship.
- In worshipping the beast they actually worship the dragon who gave his authority to the beast.
- Every unbeliever in the world will be amazed. They will be willing to do whatever he bids. Satanic worship will become the worldwide rage.

The occult will be in charge of this blind and corrupt world.

This worship is really the bidding of the false prophet.

Rev. 13:12 The second beast who comes out of the earth rather than the pit exercises all the authority of the first beast. He causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast whose fatal wound was healed.

Rev. 13:15 There was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast might even speak.

- The deception deepens. Life and a speaking voice are given to an image.
- It is the task of the false prophet to make the beast believable as a resurrected God.

What do the people say to show their complete devotion to the beast?

"Who is like the beast? And who is able to wage war with him?"

What is the significance of such a statement?

Exodus 15:11 "Who is like thee among the gods, O Lord? Who is like thee, majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?"

Ps. 35:10 All my bones shall say, LORD, who is like unto thee,

Isa. 40:18 "To whom then will you liken God?" Or to what likeness will you compare Him?

Isa. 40:25 "'To whom then will you liken me?' says the holy one."

Isa. 46:5, 9 To whom would you liken me and make me equal and compare me? says God."

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else;

I am God, and there is none like me,

Micah 7:18 "Who is a God like unto thee?"

Worship to God throughout the OT: "Who is like you? Who is able to wage war with you?"

Rev. 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

- This is mocking language. Basically, they are saying, "You are God, you take over for God." They are blaspheming God.

Rev. 13:5-7 picture the aggression and activity of the Antichrist

3. There will be WORDS. - His religious side [Wonder, Worship, Words]

Rev. 13:5-6 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue 42 months. ⁶ And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

Consider: Almost all dictators have risen to power by controlling people with their words.

History confirms when Adolf Hitler was rising to power, he mesmerized huge crowds with his speeches.

Remember: Satan will have recently been cast out of heaven. Satan will make "the beast" a great orator, whose addresses will blaspheme God, His name, His tabernacle [heaven], and the saints in heaven. Satan can do nothing without God's permission [Job 1-2; Luke 22:31-32].

- "The beast's" authority is delegated, not inherent. It will last 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years.

4. There will be WAR - Rev. 13:7-10

Rev. 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Dan. 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. [3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years]

Note: 2x "there was given to him."

- A mouth that spoke arrogant words and blasphemies
- 42 months to function.

Clearly, the giver is the sovereign God giving him the authority and establishing the limits.

The Lord Jesus said to those who came to arrest him, When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but This is your hour, and the power of darkness."

What a scene followed in the next few hours! [Luke 22:53]

In God's revelation of this evil end time system, the phrase, "was given to him," is repeated 6 times. [Six is the number of manifested evil [cf. vs. 18]. The phrase, "was given to him," occurs 2x in Rev. 13:5, 2x in Rev. 13:7, and in Rev. 13:14-15. The Tribulation is a time of divine judgments unleashed on the world for its continued rebellion.

The repetition of "and it was given to him" indicates God's judicial unleashing of powers of incipient evil of which this world cannot, in its wildest imagination, dream.

Don't forget: All this occurs by the will of a sovereign God who uses Satan as His instrument of judgment on a stubborn, rebellious, unrepentant, and unbelieving world.

Rev. 9:20-21 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

²¹ Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

All resistance to the world system will be crushed by a massive worldwide persecution.

Tribulation saints will face the most intense persecution the world has ever known.

Multitudes will be slaughtered in his effort to establish a one-world Satanic religion.

The world system of the beast will be the final Gentile world power to have dominion of Israel during the times of the Gentiles.

Luke 21:24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. [Times of Gentiles: Began with Nebuchadnezzar, head of gold.

Will end with the 2nd coming when Jesus Christ destroys ALL Gentile rule.]

A parallel of the Antichrist can be found in Dan. 3:1-30

As the head of a world kingdom, King Nebuchadnezzar was similar to the Antichrist.

- He was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.
- He built a great image and ordered people to worship it.

People from all over the world obeyed the command except 3 Jews: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The King was furious and ordered them thrown into a fiery furnace unless they changed their mind. They did not know whether or not God would deliver them, but they preferred death over worshiping the image. They refused again. The angry king had them cast into the blazing furnace. God protected them and they came out unharmed.

Consider the types:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Nebuchadnezzar | Antichrist |
| 2. Three Jewish men | Israel |
| 3. Fiery Furnace | Tribulation Period |

Question: Where was Daniel? Type of the church = Taken out of the Tribulation Period?

Extent of Beast's Authority

Rev. 13:7b-8 and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Rev. 13:4 told us THEY will worship the beast and the dragon.

Now we are told that ALL who dwell upon the earth will worship him.

Rev. 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

Interesting: This phrase was mentioned many times in Rev. 2-3 to the 7 churches.

However, in all cases the phrase was:

He that hath an ear, let him hear WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH UNTO THE CHURCHES.

- The omission of that phrase indicates the rapture of the church occurs before the Tribulation Period.

Ryrie: Rev. 13:9 is a call to serious attention. The important principle of retribution is about to be announced.

After all that has been said about the power of the beast, verse 10 is a word of great comfort.

Rev. 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

The captor will be taken captive; the killer will be killed. When God's purposes are finished through the beast, God will take him captive and confine him to the lake of fire.

In the knowledge of this is the patience and faith that sustains the saints who endure these persecutions.

Heb. 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Eph. 2:4-7 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)⁶ And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:⁷ That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Rev. 11:15 "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.

In the end the assault of the antichrist on the King and the Kingdom and the subjects of the Kingdom fails miserably. All he does in the end is collect those people who are going with him to an eternal hell. Nothing is gained.

Isa. 9:6-7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.