

Revelation 13 – A Deeper Look at the Red Dragon and the Beast

By Holly Effiom

VV1-2

Where is John standing?

How is this sea the same or different from the “sea” in Daniel 7:2?

What is significant about the beast rising out of the sea in John’s vision?

Is the beast the red dragon from Rev 12? How do you know?

Why is John explaining that the beast has the 7 heads, 10 horns, and 10 crowns?

What do the 10 horns represent? How do you know? Dan 7:24

What do the 10 crowns represent? How do you know?

What do we know about the difference between a horn and crown?

How is Rev 13:1 different from Dan 7:7-8?

How is Rev 13:1 different from Rev 12:3?

How is the description of the beast in V2 similar to the beasts described in Dan 7:3-7? How is it different? What accounts for that difference?

Which of the 4 beasts in Dan 7:3-7 is being described in Rev 13:2? How do you know?

What power was the beast given, and by whom?

What powers, therefore, does the red dragon have? Are these the crowns that God had bestowed upon him?

So, the red dragon was given power over what?

Where was the red dragon’s “seat” located?

What authority did the red dragon exercise?

Are these the only crowns the red dragon has? How do you know?

How did the red dragon come by his seat and authority?

Did the red dragon give his own power to the beast out the sea, or was the beast out of the sea empowered by the red dragon?

Comparison between Dan 7:2-7 and Rev 13:1

Dan 7:2-7		Rev 13:1-2									
1. 4 winds of heaven and the sea; 2. 4 beasts rising out of the sea –		1. John sees 1 beast rising out of the sea, but the description of this beast is unimaginable: This beast had 7 heads (with the name of blasphemy on each head), 10 horns, and 10 crowns on each horn. But also, the beast John saw: <u>a) was like a leopard; b) had feet like a bear; c) had the mouth of a lion; d) 10 horns Rev 13:1</u>									
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Beast</th> <th>Empire or Kingdom</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>a) Lion w/eagles wings</td> <td>Babylon – Dan 2:37-38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Bear w/uneven shoulders</td> <td>Medo-Persian – Dan 8:20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Leopard w/4 wings & 4 head</td> <td>Greek – Dan 8:21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d) Indescribable Beast w/<u>iron teeth & 10 horns</u></td> <td>Roman – Dan 2:40; 8:24-25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Beast		Empire or Kingdom	a) Lion w/eagles wings	Babylon – Dan 2:37-38	b) Bear w/uneven shoulders	Medo-Persian – Dan 8:20	c) Leopard w/4 wings & 4 head	Greek – Dan 8:21	d) Indescribable Beast w/ <u>iron teeth & 10 horns</u>	Roman – Dan 2:40; 8:24-25
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3. The 11th horn will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Pluck up 3 prior horns from their root; Have eyes like a man; Have a mouth speaking “great” things. 4. According to Dan 7:23, the interpretation of a beast is given to be a “kingdom”. 5. According to Dan 7:24, the interpretation of the 10 horns is given to be 10 kings or kingdoms. 6. According to Dan 7:24-25, an 11th king shall arise and conquer or subdue 3 of the 10 kings,											

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NOTE: The fourth beast that Daniel saw, while he described it as a beast, he could not liken it to any animal. Further, he described it as having iron teeth. The reference to metal relates back to the image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Dan 2:40-43, in which these kingdoms are described as a type of metal. "Iron", specifically, was allocated to that of the 4th kingdom.

NOTE: The description of the red dragon in Rev 12:3 is very similar to this beast – the red dragon had 7 horns not 10. What does this mean? Also, Daniel only saw 10 horns and not with crowns – or at least he didn't mention them in his testimony. What would account for the difference? What is the difference between a crown and a horn?

LESSON: What we discovered about the beasts in Daniel 7 was that while Daniel seemed to see them all arise at once in his vision, in Daniel 8-11 they arose sequentially, over time; and this has been borne out by history. However, John's vision is complete – he sees that 4th beast, to which Daniel couldn't attribute an animal, with 7 heads, 10 horns and 10 crowns, where Daniel's focus was solely on Gentile world power, the 4 beasts and the 11 horns. Furthermore, John makes us know that this beast was corrupt from its inception – the name of blasphemy on all 7 heads.

Recall that it was in Dan 2:37-38 that God Himself bestowed dominion upon man and the Gentile world power of Nebuchadnezzar – dominion of mankind in the earth was God-ordained. But it was noted here, as in Daniel 7, that in the 4th kingdom something changed, there began to be a mingling with clay. And John expands on what takes place with that 4th beast, here in Rev 13 – satan inserts himself into the process of human government, that is where power in the earth is located. This sheds greater light on John 14:29-30 and Daniel 9:26.

I believe we have the timing of when satan was cast into the earth – during the reign of the 4th beast, the Roman empire, and after Jesus's resurrection and return to His Father, and His throne. Notice that after the Roman Empire, dominion became decentralized throughout the earth – the *nature* of dominion became different with satan in the picture.

We learn a bit more about the character and abilities of the red dragon in examining what he gives the beast from out of the sea. The beast had 7 heads and 10 horns, just like the red dragon; however, the red dragon had 7 crowns upon the heads, while 10 crowns were upon the horns of the beast. Why the difference? Is it significant?

So, what is the story that God is telling us in Rev 13, based upon what we've learned to date?

Satan had a position in heaven, and that position had to do with the earth – the 7 heads. The earth was crowned with its own God-given gifts, and the earth produced willful children who were influenced by satan; however, it had been ordained that earth's children will have dominion over or inherit the earth with its own crowns.

VV3-4

What happened to one of the "heads"? Is this the red dragon or the beast?

What is the deadly wound? Did it kill the beast?

What did the beast's recovery cause people to do? Why would they do this?

What were the people saying about the beast? Why would they say this?

How is their behavior related to what happened to the 2 witnesses?

Did the people worship the beast out of fear or just plain rebellion? Does it matter?

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LESSON: In Rev 12, we learned satan lost his position in heaven when Jesus came to the throne – he was then cast into the earth. But take note, Jesus also sits on the *throne* of earth. Hallelujah! Remember Rev 9:11? which reminds us that that “king” of the bottomless pit is actually an angel, a *created* being, in rebellion to the one true King, and kingdom. It seems that satan is running out of places to hide, but he’s trying to find a way to survive. His final ploy is to give his position, power, and authority in the earth to mankind, whom he had belittled before (Job 1 & 2), but it would be one who is like himself, who can handle the power, position, and authority without succumbing to drugs and alcohol, or complete insanity.

And, there will be those who choose to reign in satan’s power for a time.

VV5-7 What is blasphemy?

What 2 things were given to the beast; by whom?

What did the beast do with his mouth?

Could this be likened to the “flood” of Rev 12:15?

How is this described in Daniel 7:8 and interpreted in Dan 7:25?

According to Dan 7:25, what 3 things will the final “king” (or beast) be doing?

- 1) Speaking against the Most High God. What would this look like?
- 2) Wearing out the saints of the Most High God. What would this look like?
- 3) “Thinking” to change time and laws. What would this look like?

How long will the saints of the Most High be troubled?

Comparing Dan 7:25 and Rev 13:5-7, are the two prophets speaking of the same time period and event?

According to John, who are the “saints” of the Most High? Rev 12:17

What are the “great things” that the final king or beast will be speaking?

LESSON: Blasphemy. Merriam-Webster defines “blasphemy” as follows –

a: the act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God

b: the act of claiming the attributes of deity

c: irreverence toward something considered sacred or inviolable

And, I’ve heard it taught that blasphemy is the attribution of the things of God to something or someone else.

Accepting these definitions, we can see when an individual blasphemes; what does blasphemy look like when an empire, kingdom, or nation blasphemes (considering that the beast from out of the sea has the name of blasphemy stamped on all 7 of his heads)?

I believe that the message of this section of scripture is that the very existence of this beast (an empire, kingdom, nation, or a people), any construct of power system or order that is generated out of men’s and or rebellious angels’ self-will is blasphemy. Furthermore, anything that that nation does in this state – good, bad, or indifferent – is, therefore, *blasphemy*.

Time, Times, and Half a Time, 42 Months, 1260 Days

Timing	Scriptural Reference	Scriptural Subject
Time, Times, and Half a Time	Dan 7:25; Dan 12:7; Rev 12:14	Saints of the Most High God given into the 11 th horn’s hand. The woman with a crown of 12 stars nourished in the wilderness.
42 months	Rev 11:2; Rev 13:5	Gentiles treading down outer court; beast from out of the sea attacks the Christians
1260 days	Rev 11:3; Rev 12:6	2-Witnesses or olive trees (Zech 4) or candlesticks; woman with crown of 12 stars, hiding in the wilderness

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When the description is Time, Times, and Half-Time (3.5 years), the Old and New Testament are being tied together by this reference. The saints of the Most High are given into the hands of the eleventh horn out of the 4th beast (Dan 7:24-25). For what purpose? To "...scatter the power of the holy people...", according to Dan 12:7. But also, we are told what will be happening with the Jew in Rev 12:14. They will be nourished in the wilderness. [NOTE: I believe that this is related to the "blindness of the Jew" that Paul discussed in Rom 11:25.] I believe, when the term time, times, and half a time are used, God is telling us about what is happening to Israel.

When the description is 42 months (3.5 years), the events of the temple (Old Testament) is being tied together with the New Testament. We are told which of Noah's sons will be the world power during this time period - the *Gentile* world power will be treading down the outer court of the temple (Rev 11:2) and the beast from out of the sea will boisterously – speaking "great things and blasphemies..." – continue its attack on the believers through the 42 months (Rev 13:5). I believe, when the term 42 months is used, God is telling us about the beast.

When the description is 1260 days (3.5 years), we are being told that the church will come into its strength during this time period. The two witnesses (olive trees or candlesticks) will be empowered to preach (Rev 11:3). The woman with the crown of 12 stars – Israel – will be kept safe in the wilderness (Rev 12:6). John 3:30, "He must increase, but I must decrease." The Old Testament is making way for the New Testament. I believe, the reference of the 1260 days is God telling us about those who have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

So, what does all of this mean? I believe that God is tying all these scriptural references, both Old and New Testaments, into one time period; and is, in fact, pointing to the *same* 3.5-year time period for both the Christian and the Jew, and even for the beast. In addition, He is explaining the end goal of the *old* order making way for the new, *superior*, order.

If it is accepted that all three references are to the same time period, then understand that Revelation 6-11, 12, and 13 are all taking place at the same time – after Jesus was "caught to God and to his throne" – but from different perspectives. These chapters should be viewed in parallel!

VV8-10

Who will be the center of worship?

Who will be worshipping the beast?

Why does it say that the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world?

What does the term, "if any man have an ear, let him hear", mean? Why is it important? Matt 13:10-15

So, does being able to hear me or the television mean that you "have an ear" in the sense of this scripture?

What does it mean to lead into captivity?

What will happen to the one who does this?

What is meant by "kill with the sword"? Is it only a sword that kills?

Can a sword be used to open a can; stir a pot of soup; help bring a baby into the world?

What is the purpose and intent of the sword?

Can a sword kill a person's spirit?

What weapon can kill a person's spirit?

When a person's spirit is killed; is that tantamount to killing them physically? Why or why not?

What will happen to those who kill with a sword?

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SPIRITUAL CONCEPT: God is Just. What you do to others WILL rebound to yourself!

What do I mean by SPIRITUAL CONCEPT? Just as the concept works in negative things, such as killing or enslaving others, it also works in positive things and vice versa. And, this is where the saints will be tried, for they will be sorely attacked – deceived, used, and abused – and there will be *nothing* they could do about it.

VV11-12

Does this beast also come from the sea?

Why is this difference noteworthy?

How else is this beast different from the previous one?

Does this beast speak like a lamb? Why is God telling us how this beast sounds?

Is this beast trying to garner worship for himself?

What are some of the signs and miracles that he does?

What is the point of doing great signs? What does it do for the cause?

LESSON: Another beast arises, but this one is out of the earth, which means that this beast is a man. This man will wield the same power that the first beast, out of the sea, wields; i.e., he too is empowered by the red dragon. The beast from out of the earth will encourage idolatry against God – the worship of the first beast, which, I believe, represents something other than a kingdom, nation, maybe even an ethnic group. The first beast which has 7 heads, would exist worldwide. A kingdom or nation, or even an ethnic group is regional. Perhaps the first beast in Rev 13 is a corporation, which is an entity that can exist on multiple continents.

VV13-15

What kind of power is given to this beast from out of the earth?

Is this beast representative of an individual or nation?

What benefit does this beast from out of the earth get from encouraging the worship of the other beast?

What does it mean “...to give life unto the image of the beast...”?

What does this beast cause to happen to those who do not worship the image? (Dan 3)

Who would be the people concerned with any form of idolatry? (Dan 11:36-39)

What is the “mark”?

VV16-18

Who will take the mark?

What happens if you don't take the mark?

What does it mean that the first beast has a number?

What does it mean that the beast would have the number of a man?

Why do you think God is telling us about this number?

LESSON: This is a terrifying section of scripture. I once thought that the saints will not see the advent of the phenomena of the “mark” because the rapture took place in Rev 11, and here we are in Rev 13; however, if my earlier proposal is true – chapters 6-11, 12, and 13 should be viewed in parallel – then the events of this section will indeed take place, right up and until the rapture – the resurrection of the two witnesses.

I will not attempt to explain what the mark is exactly, because I don't know. But I do have some theories.