

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

JROC – Rev. 13 - The Beasts and the Mark

January 21, 2018

REVELATION 13

Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. ² Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. ³ And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. ⁴ So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”

⁵ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. ⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear. ¹⁰ He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. ¹² And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. ¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. ¹⁵ He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. ¹⁶ He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

Winston Churchill served as the United Kingdom's Prime Minister from 1940-1945 and then again from 1951-1955. Churchill has been quoted as stating, “The purpose of the New World Order is to bring the world into a world government.”

We need to realize that we are indeed moving toward a one-world government. Its earthly leader will someday be the antichrist. Many world leaders are desperate for world

peace. They believe that world peace is impossible without peace among the religions. The coming one-world religion will be led by the false prophet.

Regarding the antichrist, “This man will emerge after the Rapture, probably to calm the chaotic waters troubled by the unexplained departure of so many Christians. He (the antichrist) will be primed and ready to speak. He will stand before not only a nation but a world and will win their approval. Like Hitler, he will emerge on a scene of such political and economic chaos that the people will see him as a man with vision, with pragmatic answers and power to unite the world.” Chuck Swindoll

Two beasts are mentioned in Revelation 13, one from the sea (v. 1) and another from the earth (v. 11). The beast from the sea has been identified as the antichrist while the beast from the earth has been identified as the false prophet.

Paul-Henri Spaak, the Prime Minister of Belgium in the 1930-1940 timeframe made the following statement...”The truth is that the method of international committees has failed. What we need is a person, someone of the highest order or great experience, of great authority, of wide influence, of great energy. Let him come and let him come quickly. Either a civilian or a military man, no matter what his nationality, who will cut all the red tape, shove out...all the committees, wake up all the people and galvanize all governments into action.” The antichrist will come onto the world’s scene...and the world will be waiting to receive him in precisely this way.

The antichrist will appear inconspicuously at first. We see him as the rider on the white horse. We then see him arising from among the masses.

Rev. 13:1 – *Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.* The word “sea,” when used symbolically in the book of Revelation, refers not to a vast body of water, but to the nations of the earth – and more specifically to the Gentile nations. Rev. 17:15 – *The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues*

Since the antichrist will make a covenant with Israel, many assume that the antichrist will be Jewish. There are several reasons why this assumption seems improbable:

- Daniel prophesied that the prince or the antichrist, would come from the people who would destroy the city of Jerusalem and the sanctuary (Dan. 9:26). It was the Romans who destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD. Therefore, “the prince who is to come” will be a Roman prince. He will be a European Gentile.
- Antiochus Epiphanes, the Syrian General in the book of Daniel, who desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem between circa 171 and 165 BC (background of Chanukah), is considered a type of the antichrist. A type in Scripture is a person or thing in the Old Testament which foreshadows a person or thing in the New Testament. Antiochus Epiphanes was a Gentile, not Jewish.
- Daniel also saw the antichrist as the “little horn” that arose out of the ten horns (“horn” in Scripture depicts a powerful person) on the head of the fourth beast (Dan. 7:7,

19-26). This fourth beast represents the Roman Empire. The empires that would arise in history recorded in Dan. 2 – Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greece, Rome – all Gentile nations. These empires comprise the “times of the Gentiles”.

The antichrist will:

- ...be an intellectual genius (Dan. 8:23)
- ...be an oratorical genius (Dan. 11:36)
- ...be a political genius (Rev. 17:11-12)
- ...be a commercial genius (Dan. 11:43; Rev. 13:16-17)
- ...be a military genius (Rev. 6:2; Rev. 13:2).
- ...be a religious genius (II Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:8a)
- ...be a Gentile (Rev. 13:1)
- ...emerge from a reunited Roman Empire (Dan. 7:8; 9:26)

The beast has seven heads (7 world empires: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the Revived Roman Empire). The seventh head is antichrist's kingdom. His world government will be subdivided into ten crowns – ten major divisions with each division having its own evil ruler. The Prophet Daniel teaches that the antichrist (the eleventh division/horn) will come up and uproot three of the ten horns (Dan. 7:7-8, 23-25). The remaining seven will then submit to the antichrist who is then the head of the world government.

...a blasphemous name - on his heads. All seven world governments denoted by the heads will have a blasphemous name because all seven world governments and their corresponding false religions are seen as not worshipping the one true God!

Rev. 13:2 - *Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.* The beast/antichrist has qualities of a “leopard,” a “bear,” and a “lion” comparisons. Daniel 7 speaks of these beasts but not in the order found in Rev. 13. Daniel, living in the days of the lion (Babylon) sees the lion, the bear (Medo-Persia) and the leopard (Greece). John the Apostle, writing in the days of Rome, looked backward in time to see them in reverse order: the leopard (Greece [directly before Rome]), the bear (Medo-Persia) and the lion (Babylon). The antichrist will come from the Revived Roman Empire (out of the Roman Empire) and will, as such, have the characteristics of the previous Gentile nations noted (leopard, bear, lion) that oppressed Israel. The antichrist's power, office, and authority will come from Satan. Whoever he is and whatever he does comes from the pits of hell!

Rev. 13:3 - *And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.*

One of the seven heads, the wounded head, will be the antichrist. He will appear to be fatally wounded by a sword (Rev. 13:14). Something amazing will occur. The antichrist will appear to be fatally wounded. And his seemingly fatal wound will be healed. It appears that he will be miraculously raised from the dead. This appears to be

another attempt to copy Jesus and make the world believe the antichrist can do anything Christ can do. This refers to his *lying* wonders (II Thess. 2:9). Satan does not have the power to give life. Satan has the power of death (Heb. 2:14). Since Christ alone has the power of resurrection. Jesus is the God of the living, not of the dead (Mark 12:27). Satan cannot bring one back to life. There is much debate and speculation regarding this act. Will the antichrist actually die and truly resurrect? Or is this a counterfeit death and resurrection? Look at the results of this “miracle”...

Rev. 13:4 - *So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’* Satan has always desired to be worshipped from the days of Lucifer. Those who will worship the antichrist will actually be worshipping Satan. The worship of the beast will dominate the one-world religion.

Rev. 13:5 - *And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.* When the miraculous healing of the antichrist occurs, the end of the Tribulation will be forty-two months ahead/three and a half years. The antichrist in the temple is during the middle point of the Tribulation. This is at the same time that the antichrist will bring an end to the sacrifice and offering (Dan. 9:27).

Rev. 13:6 - *Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.* The antichrist will blaspheme God, the name of God, God’s tabernacle/temple, and those who reside in heaven.

Rev. 13:7 - *It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.* The saints are the Tribulation saints. Satan will give the antichrist power to conquer all who are believers. He will go forth with a great vengeance to wipe them out.

Rev. 13:8 - *All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.* Those who will not worship Satan are those whose names are written in the Book of Life. Satan can rage. God is in control. Believers cannot be separated from the love of Jesus!

...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world

foundation – the Greek means a “throwing or laying down.”

Jesus’ sacrifice was not an afterthought in the mind of, the eternal plan of God.

I Pet. 1:18-20 - *...you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.²⁰ He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.* God knows the end from the beginning (Isa. 46:10).

Consider: God provided for the first sin – for Adam and Eve’s sin – through spilling the blood of an innocent animal to cover their nakedness (Gen. 3:21). God’s plan is unfolded

throughout Scripture. Isa. 53:7 reveals that the Lamb would be slain - *He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.* Isa. 53:10 speaks of God's plan regarding the Messiah Jesus' death. *But the LORD was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering...* This was decreed in eternity past!

Rev. 13:9 - *If anyone has an ear, let him hear.* (I'm understanding this verse in light of Rev. 13:8) Everyone has a natural ear. This verse speaks of a "spiritual" ear – hearing from the Spirit. I Cor. 2:14 – *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.* John 16:13 - *when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;* This invitation from Jesus is noted in the following verses – Jesus addressing the masses: Matt. 11:15, 13:9, 43; Mark 4:9, 23; Luke 8:8). NOTE: In Rev. 2 and 3 we read, "If anyone has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." "What the Spirit says to the churches" is omitted in Rev. 13:9. Why? This verse in Rev. 13 is an indication that the churches are not on earth during the Tribulation. During the Tribulation there will be those who are Tribulation saints, and there are those who will become Tribulation saints.

Rev. 13:10 - *He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.* John MacArthur suggests that this is a call to believers during the Tribulation to accept persecution from the antichrist with perseverance and endurance. The message: accept with patience such suffering as God has ordained for them. The Holy Spirit inspired Peter to write...and in this truth, may we find guidance and comfort. See I Pet. 2:19-24.

patience – means to "abide under" which indicates steadfastness and perseverance while enduring toil and suffering (Rev. 1:9 – John was a "brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus...on the isle of Patmos.")

patience and faith of the saints is found *here* – in the realization of God's sovereignty, in His will and in knowing that...

Rom. 8:35-37 - *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?* ³⁶ *As it is written: 'For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.'* ³⁷ *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*

Although a remnant of Jews is hidden and protected in "a place prepared for them" in the wilderness (Rev. 12:6), the majority of the people of faith ("countless multitude – Rev. 7:9) will be within the domain of the beast. The believers' patience is a witnesses of the reality of their faith for the glory of God.

Rev. 13:11 - *Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.*

another – "allos" – another of the same kind. John 14:16 - *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper.*

Together with the first beast and the dragon, this beast from the earth forms an evil trinity. There's no argument that these three evil persons are opposed to and are the antithesis of our triune God!

coming up out of the earth

John sees this second beast rising from the earth. Some have suggested that this beast, who is the false prophet, will have Jewish origin as earth oftentimes in Scripture refers to God's plan for Israel; God promised Israel the land. God promised Israel the Kingdom of God which Jesus will establish on the earth. Some say: The "sea" is a symbol of the masses of humanity, while the "earth" is a symbol of the land of Israel.

First beast – from the sea (Gentiles); second beast – from the earth (Jews). We cannot be dogmatic regarding this distinction.

This beast from out of the earth, the false prophet, will direct the earth dwellers (non-believers) to worship the antichrist. This beast is a religious figure.

The first beast must be the antichrist because he is the one (II Thess. 2:4ff) who will receive worship. The second beast cannot be the antichrist because the second beast does not receive worship. Additionally, the second beast is not the antichrist since the antichrist will rule over the political and the religious in the Tribulation.

two horns – perhaps a reference to Dt. 19:15 – at the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses a matter will be established. Some have said "two" is the number of witness (based on Dt. 19:15) and the false prophet will testify to/of the antichrist.

like a lamb – the false prophets appearance as a lamb masks his true nature. Who he is will not be evident from his outward appearance. Matt. 7:15-16a – *Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits*

spoke like a dragon – although the false prophet will appear to be gentle like a lamb, he will be energized by the will of Satan and his words will unmask his true nature. The false prophet will demand the worship of the beast. He tells those who dwell on the earth to make the image of the beast. The false prophet is also the enforcer of the mark of the beast required in order to buy or sell.

Rev. 13:12 - *And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.* Full authority has been given to the false prophet by the dragon, Satan.

in his presence – it appears that the false prophet is very closely controlled. He is only granted power "in the sight of the beast."

causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast – The false prophet is to direct worship to the beast/the antichrist. How will that impact believers? More martyrdom!

whose deadly wound is healed – Gk. literally *the wound of his death*.

Rev. 13:13 - *He (the false prophet) performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. NOT like the two witnesses - anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies (Rev. 11:5).*

Rev. 13:14 - *And he (the false prophet) deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast*

The signs granted to the false prophet by whom? Satan. Satan is a deceiver. These are lying wonders. The false prophet's authority must be in the sight of the antichrist. What is all this telling us? There is NO trust among those who are in this unholy, evil trinity!!

telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. The false prophet then tells the non-believers to make an image to the antichrist – who was wounded by the sword and now lives! It is by these signs that the false prophet deceives the earth dwellers. These signs are false because of what they are proclaiming – worship of Satan!!!

Signs alone are not trustworthy! (Acts 8:9-11)

Deut. 13:1-4 - *If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, ² and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'—which you have not known—'and let us serve them,' ³ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴ You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.* Every “experience” must be tested against what is in Scripture – to that which God has already revealed!

Rev. 13:15 - *He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.* It appears that one of the purposes of this image is to occupy the place of worship in the temple (Matt. 24:15). The false prophet gives breath to that which is initially inanimate. *breath* – could be accomplished via a futuristic technological mimic of life – animation – ventriloquism – demonic possession, or??? The speaking image will remind the earth dwellers that the antichrist was once dead but is alive again.

The speaking of the image will *cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.* It appears that the image will proclaim that all who refuse to worship it will be killed. The population of the earth is now divided. Two options will exist: worship the image of the beast and live or do not worship the image of the beast and die! Bottom line: the options equate to choosing physical life or choosing life everlasting with God! The believing Jewish remnant remains protected by God. Those who are Gentile believers might manage to stay alive underground within the beast's system (Rev. 18:4)

Rev. 13:16-17 - *He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.* No matter what station in life or position a person has, each will all be treated absolutely equally.

mark – a mark or a stamp. The mark here is most likely a specific design so as to be recognizable. The mark emphasized loyalty to the beast. The seal on the 144,000 emphasized ownership by God.

The mark of the beast will almost certainly be visible. It may be engraved, etched, branded. Whereas the seal of God on the 144,000 is probably invisible. The seal is discernible by supernatural powers (Rev. 7:2; Rev. 9:4); the mark of the beast is discernible by the government of the beast.

Jesus does not need a visible mark to help Him watch over the 144,000. The antichrist, however, is not divine.

on their right hand or on their foreheads – Notice that the chip is not internally inserted. It is on the right hand or on the forehead! This provides a ready means to identify those without the mark.

who has the mark or the name of the beast or the number of his name – the mark embodies information pertaining to the name of the beast. Re: the *number of his name* – this most likely pertains to the practice of “gematria,” where the individual letters comprising the name are given numerical values.

Taking the mark will be like buying a license to transact business. Merchants will need it to sell their good. Control over the necessities of life amounts to control over people. With these in his grasp, the false prophet will force people to worship the image of the beast. In this way, he will merge church and state.

Reasons for the mark:

- To counterfeit the mark God will give to the 144,000 Jewish servants of God.
- To extend favors to those who support the world government.
- To identify and eliminate opposition to the world government.
- To track and control commerce.
- To force people to stop worshipping God.
- To force people to worship the antichrist.
- To permanently tie people to the kingdom of the antichrist.

All people will be polarized into two camps. It will be impossible to take a position of neutrality or indecision. Those who take the mark are accepting the antichrist as God. Receiving this mark signifies the approval of the antichrist and his purpose. They are choosing the beast over Jesus and refusing God’s offer of salvation, mercy, forgiveness, and love. This will be the end of their opportunities to be saved!

Rev. 14:9-11 - *Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.¹¹ And the*

smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.'

Scripture is clear that those who do not receive the mark will be killed. BUT, they will live and reign with Christ for 1,000 years.

Rev. 20:4 - And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

The false prophet will mandate this mark of the beast which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.

Rev. 13:18 – Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: his number is 666. Many have suggested that as 7 is the number of perfection and the number 777 reflects the perfect triune God, perhaps 666 points to a being who aspires to perfect deity but never attains it - man.

This event is at the mid-point of the Tribulation, after the beast overcomes the two witnesses (Rev. 11:7). It is the signal for the flight of the Jewish remnant to the mountains/wilderness.

Look at the contrast of LIFE, HOPE, SALVATION in
REVELATION 14:1-5

Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. ³ They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. ⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Where are the 144,000? On heaven or on earth?

Why were the 144,000 sealed?

If this is a heavenly scene, how do we then explain the failure of the sealing of the 144,000 for protection (Rev. 7:3) which has now apparently resulted in their death?

QUESTIONS:

Why does this matter to God? What have you learned from this chapter that brings glory and honor to God?

How, through you, will this chapter impact others?

How does this chapter impact you?

How do you understand the dragon and the two beasts? So what?

What is your main take-away from Revelation 13?

STRONGLY SUGGESTED HOMEWORK:

Reread the handout and check out the cross references.

Should you disagree with any of the views, note your observations and list your questions.

Begin to answer your questions from Scripture.

Read the lesson for week 10 when it arrives.

Share what you are learning with one or two people.