



## 2025 Focus: Committed to Executing the Word

James 1:22

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### THE BEAST FROM THE SEA

#### Revelation Chapter 13

Chapter 13 becomes more intense. Satan turns up the heat upon the earth. He has already been cast out and barred from heaven, and he is angry to say the least. Now, we meet the beast as we are shown the events that occur in the last half of the Tribulation period.

Verses 1. John describes the beast as rising from the sea. The beast is not the dragon but a man. However, his appearance is almost identical with that of the dragon—Revelation 12:3—indicating that he is in a distinct sense related to the dragon. He is called the son of perdition in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, as well as the man of sin. Daniel calls him “the prince that shall come” Daniel 9:25, Isaiah calls him “the abomination of desolation” Isaiah 11:4, Matthew 24:15, and John simply calls him “the beast.”

The symbolic description of the beast enables us to learn something about his origin and character. God does not see him as a man made in the divine image, but as a wild animal under the control of Satan. He is a man, but energized from hell, for he comes out of the pit. Just as Jesus Christ is God in the flesh, so the beast will be Satan in a human body, John 13:2, 27—a vicious killing animal.

The seven heads represent successive world empires. Horns always represent power, as in the animal kingdom. Ten is a number that symbolizes the totality of human military and political power, assisting the beast as he controls the world. John sees the beast as the final world government—the Anti-Christ, Anti-God Coalition headed by a

revived Roman Empire. The crowns show the dominion of this confederate kingdom. The blasphemous name shows that this beast identifies himself as a god; therefore, he blasphemes the True God.

**Verse 2.** John further describes the beast in Verse 2—Leopard, a metaphor for ancient Greece alluding to the Greek's swiftness and agility in their military moved in conquest particularly under Alexander the Great. Bear—a metaphor for the ancient Medo-Persian Empire, depicting ferocious strength, combined with great agility. Lion—a metaphor for the ancient Babylonian Empire, referring to their fierce, all-consuming power as they extended their domain

In **Verses 3-10**, we will see four things happening concerning the beast.

1. **Wonder—Verse 3.** In this verse, Satan produces a fake death and resurrection, enacted by the Antichrist as part of his deception. His deadly wound was healed. Remember, Satan is a liar, and it was previously prophesied that he would deceive the entire world. Remember, without the Word of God and Jesus as Lord, there is no defense against Satan and his lies. The world will marvel, be astounded, and be fascinated when this Antichrist appears to rise from the dead. His charisma, brilliance, and attractive but deluding power will cause the world to follow him unquestionably—**2 Thessalonians 2:8-12**.
2. **Worship—Verse 4.** The wonder in **Verse 3** gave way to worship in **Verse 4**. Remember, worship is the one thing that Satan has always wanted—**Matthew 4:8-10**, and he will receive it through the beast. By this time, the ungodly men and women still living on the earth will have become fully aware of the cosmic dimensions and the imminent conflict between good and evil and will have deliberately cast their lot with Satan and the beast rather than with God. They will all become Satanists, worshipping Satan as god.

3. **Words—Verses 5-6.** All dictators rise to power by controlling people with their words. Satan will make the beast a great orator, whose addresses will blaspheme God, His Name, His Tabernacle, and the saints in heaven. His name—this identifies and summarizes all the attributes of God.

The sovereign God will establish the limits within the Antichrist, and he will be allowed to speak and operate. God will allow him to utter his blasphemies, to bring the state of Satan to its culmination on earth for 3-1/2 years—forty-two months. Even with evil raging, it is comforting to note that God is still in control. This is the last half of the Tribulation.

4. **War—Verses 7-10.** God will permit the Antichrist to wage war against His people and even defeat some of them. John prophesied that some saints would be captured, while others would be martyred. But because of their faith, they will have patience or endurance and will not deny the Lord despite persecution and death.

The world's population will be divided—the saved with their names in the Book of Life will not submit to the beast, and those who are lost (the earth dwellers), who will worship the beast and do his bidding. **Revelation 13:9-10** teaches us that in every age of the church, true believers must take their stand for Christ, come what may.

Keep in mind that the beast is a counterfeit Christ. The world would not receive Christ, but it will receive the Antichrist—**John 5:43**. The world will not believe the truth, but they will believe the lie—**2 Thessalonians 2:8-12**. Jesus spoke and still speaks gracious words of salvation, and men turn a deaf ear, but they will listen to the blasphemous words of the beast. The world will not worship Christ, but they will bow down to the Antichrist.