

Absolute World Domination: The Beast(s) Revelation 13

Revelation 13 Introduction

Absolute World Domination

- Any number of megalomaniacs have dreamed about it.
- A few political or military leaders, like Alexander the Great, have managed to get pretty far in their day – but not quite there.
- The rest have had to stick to board games.
- Anyone up for some *Risk*®?

- But someday it's going to happen.
- And today we're going to find out a little of what it will be like.

- This chapter brings in two beasts.
- The first is elsewhere called "Antichrist," a man empowered by the devil – after the devil was cast down to earth in Revelation 12:9.
- The second beast is called "the False Prophet" after this point in the book.
- He points the earth-dwellers toward Antichrist.

- The Dragon, Antichrist and the False Prophet complete a deceptive satanic trinity.
- As the Father gives His authority to Jesus, so Satan gives his authority to Antichrist.
- As the Holy Spirit points people to Jesus and causes them to worship Him, so the False Prophet points people to Antichrist and causes them to worship him.

- By the time Christ returns and destroys him Antichrist, or "the Beast," as this chapter calls him, will achieve:
 1. Total Political Authority
 2. Total Religious Authority
 3. Total Economic Authority
- In other words, **Absolute World Domination**.

Revelation 13 Outline

Beast #1 and Beast #2

- I. The Beast Out of the Sea 13:1-10
- II. The Beast Out of the Earth 13:11-18

The Beast Out of the Sea 13:1-10

- 13:1 *out of the sea* Symbolic of the nations?
 - See Revelation 17:15 and Daniel 7:2.
- seven heads and ten horns Compare with the dragon in 12:3. (And Revelation 17)
- on his horns ten crowns The dragon in 12:3 has crowns on his 7 heads.
- A blasphemous name Blasphemy will play a big part in describing this beast. See 13:5-6

- 13:2 For the animals compare Daniel 7.
- The dragon gave him ... The beast's power, throne and authority are from Satan.
- Antichrist will be a political figure that will receive the kingdoms of the world from the Devil – precisely unlike Jesus.
 - See Mathew 4:8-10.

- 13:3 mortally wounded... Literally “as having been slain to death, and its deadly wound was healed”
 - Zechariah 11:16-17 may provide some insight.
- 13:4 worshiped This is strangely reminiscent of the emperor worship of the Roman Empire and earlier empires going back to Egypt and Babylon.
- 13:5-6 mouth speaking... See Daniel 7:7-11.
- 13:7 make war with the saints and to overcome them
- As with the two witnesses in 11:7.
- Daniel also speaks of this. (Daniel 7:21-25)
 - Yet Israel is supernaturally protected (12:14).
 - The church as we know it today cannot be overcome on the worldwide scale implied here (Matthew 16:18).
- Therefore it seems best to conclude that these “saints” are Gentiles saved during the Tribulation period – “tribulation saints”.
- This coincides with the authority given to the beast “over every tribe, tongue and nation.”
- They are not exactly Israel and not exactly the church as it exists right now.
- But they do worship the God of Israel and are saved by their faith in Christ.
- 13:8 *All who dwell on the earth will worship him* It may never happen before this time, but the goal of a true worldwide religion is finally achieved.
- Antichrist will be the object of worship.
- People who have rejected Jesus Christ, the Truth, will be placed under a strong delusion and will believe “the Lie” or Antichrist.
 - See 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12
- 13:8 from the foundation of the world
- In English it seems like this phrase applies to “the Lamb slain.”
- In Greek it can just as easily apply to the names in the Book of Life.
- Revelation 17:8 seems to clarify this.
 - The Lamb was slain at an exact moment in history.
 - The names were written (or not written) in the Lamb’s Book of Life before history ever began.
- 13:9 If anyone has an ear let him hear.
- A similar call was issued in each of the letters in Revelation 2 & 3.
- 13:10 the patience and the faith
- No matter how awful it gets for God’s people during this time, this is an assurance that their persecutors will eventually be brought to justice.

The Beast Out of the Earth 13:11-18

- 13:11 coming up “ascending, walking up or stepping up” Same as in 13:1.
- Could the earth signify Israel? Maybe (not).
- Two horns The horns don’t have crowns like those of the first beast.
- The first beast is originally a political figure; this beast appears religious – “a prophet.”
- Dragon Satan again, as in 13:2 & 4.
- 13:12 He exercises his authority only in the presence of the first beast.

- He is secondary in authority to Antichrist.
- He causes the earth to worship Antichrist.
- Whose deadly wound was healed Again the mention of Antichrist's healed deadly wound.
- This is much like an anti-resurrection.

- 13:13 signs ... fire from heaven
- False prophetic signs, recalling Elijah.
 - See 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 (again).

- 13:14 an image to the beast
- This is the first of 10 mentions of this image – 3 of them are in the next verse.
- It is likely the Abomination of Desolation mentioned first by Daniel and then by Jesus.
 - Daniel 11:31, 12:11
 - Matthew 24:15
 - Mark 13:14

- 13:14 and lived John used the same words and the same form earlier to describe Christ's resurrection in Revelation 2:8.
- This is obviously a rude imitation of Christ – making the title "Antichrist" (opposite or instead of Christ) a very appropriate one.

- 13:15 breath = *pneuma* "spirit, wind, breath, essence or quality of life"
- The image will come to life and speak, demanding worship or death.

- 13:16-18 **What is the mark of the beast?**
- It is clearly somehow associated with worship of the beast.
- It seems to be a genuinely visible identifiable mark of some kind.
- It gives permission to buy or sell.
- It contrasts with the name on the foreheads of the 144,000 in 14:1 – the "seal" of Chapter 7.
- It is in fact, the name of the beast or the number of his name. Other translations of v.17 read:
 - ESV: so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.
 - NLT: And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name.
- Finally, it is a number that can be calculated – and it adds up to 666.
- Ancient languages gave numerical values to the letters of their alphabets.
- The Roman numerals we use today are left over from that practice.
- When the time comes this won't be hard.

See table below: The Beast - Summary

Revelation 13 Conclusions

- As all of this points out, the beast will not be hard to identify for those believers who are alive when the time comes – at the midpoint of the 7-year Tribulation.
- But what about us here and now?

- Consider that the ruling authority of Antichrist will ultimately extend into three areas:
 1. Total Political Authority
 2. Total Religious Authority
 3. Total Economic Authority
- We see forces in the world in all of these areas that are actively opposed to Jesus.
- This is much like 1 John 2:18.

- And these three areas are all rightly to be ruled – not by Antichrist – but by Christ:
- So we should be asking ourselves if we are giving Him His rightful place in our lives.

- Consider the following:
 1. Total Political Authority:
 - Do I treat Christ as an absolute monarch?
 - Do I give Him absolute authority to rule over me?

 2. Total Religious Authority:
 - Is Christ the sole object of my worship?
 - Or am I secretly bowing down to idols of my own making?

 3. Total Economic Authority:
 - This can be a tough one.
 - Does Christ have absolute control of my possessions, my finances, my income and spending?

- As genuine followers of Jesus, we should not answer less than yes to Christ's absolute authority over every area of our lives – even our very existence.
- Give Christ His rightful place.
- Let Him absolutely dominate your world.

The Beast – A Biblical Summary

The Bible makes clear that in the last days prior to Christ's return an evil world ruler will arise who will deceive many. He goes by several names in Scripture including *Antichrist* (in 1 John 2:18). The prefix "anti" implies that he is both *in opposition to* and *in place of* the true Christ. Here is a sample of what the Word of God tells us about this future leader.

His Titles

1	The Seed of the Serpent	Genesis 3:15
2	The Little Horn	Daniel 7:8
3	The Prince Who Is to Come	Daniel 9:26
4	A Vile Person	Daniel 11:21
5	A Foolish Shepherd	Zechariah 11:15-16
6	The Man of Sin	2 Thessalonians 2:3
7	The Son of Perdition	2 Thessalonians 2:3
8	The Lawless One	2 Thessalonians 2:8
9	Antichrist	1 John 2:18
10	The Beast	Revelation 13:1-2

Prophetic Insight into His Life and Character

1	He will come in the last days.	Daniel 8:19,23
2	He will speak pompous or boastful words	Daniel 7:8, 20
3	His great power will not be his own.	Daniel 8:24
4	He will be broken without human means.	Daniel 8:25
5	He will be of the people of the Roman Empire. (The armies of Rome destroyed "the city", meaning <i>Jerusalem</i> , and "the sanctuary", or <i>temple</i> , in 70 A.D.)	Daniel 9:26
6	He will make and then break a seven-year covenant with the people of Israel.	Daniel 9:27
7	He will come in his own name.	John 5:43
8	He will not rise to power until "He who now restrains" is taken out of the way.	2 Thessalonians 2:6-8
9	He will exalt himself above all else that is worshiped.	2 Thessalonians 2:4
10	He will seat himself in a future temple of God, presenting himself as God.	2 Thessalonians 2:4
11	The Lord will destroy him with the "breath of His mouth" and the "brightness of His <i>coming</i> ", or "personal presence".	2 Thessalonians 2:8
12	His deceptive miraculous powers will actually be satanic.	2 Thessalonians 2:9

The Beast – A Biblical Summary (page 2)

Prophetic Insight (continued)

13	He will make war with the saints and overcome them.	Revelation 13:7 Daniel 7:21, 25
14	His authority will continue for “42 months” or three and a half years.	Revelation 13:5
15	The world will marvel at him, follow him and worship him.	Revelation 13:3-4
16	He will rule over all the people of the world.	Revelation 13:7
17	The unsaved will worship him.	Revelation 13:8
18	He will receive a deadly wound and yet live.	Revelation 13:3, 14
19	With the assistance of the False Prophet, he will control the global financial system using a mark on the right hand or the forehead.	Revelation 13:16-18
20	He will receive authority to rule on earth from a group of ten international leaders, three of which will fall, or be removed, before him.	Revelation 17:12-13, 17 Daniel 7:8, 20
21	At the Second Coming of Christ, he will try to make war against the Lord, together with the kings of the earth and their armies.	Revelation 19:19
22	Along with the False Prophet, he will be cast into the Lake of Fire, where he will be tormented forever and ever.	Revelation 19:20, 20:10