

## The Church of the Servant King

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### PROPHECY SERIES

(Proph21O\_Revelation\_chp13\_The Beast and the False Prophet)

*Relation Between Chapters 12 and 13* – Chapter 13 is a continuation of chapter 12. In chapter 12, we are caused to consider the result of the war in heaven as it has effect upon Israel.

In chapter 13, John describes a part of his vision that contains more detail about how Satan will execute his strategy on earth during the last three and one-half years of the Tribulation. There are some strong similarities between the descriptions of the “dragon” (Satan) of chapter 12 and the “beast” of chapter 13, but there are differences as well.

Chap 12	Description of the “Dragon” (Satan)	Chap 13	Description of the “Beast”
3	“...great red dragon having seven heads...”	1	“...a beast coming up out of the sea having...seven heads...”
3	“...and ten horns...”	1	“...ten horns...”
3	“...seven diadems...”	1	“...ten diadems...”

*Relation Between Revelation 13, 17 and Daniel 7* – These passages have some close parallels in the descriptions that are provided of the Beast. In Daniel 7, we are also provided a similar description of the “beast” of the Great Tribulation.

In these chapters, we are presented with three very similar descriptions of the “beast” – a coalition of rulers who are united by a common goal, i.e. the destruction of believers and Jews and making war against the Lamb. I will defer the interpretation of the “heads” and “horns” of this beast until we arrive at chapter 17. Then, we will examine the correlation of these three passages and derive an interpretation of the “heads” and the “horns” of the beast. Chapter 13 provides a brief summary or outline description of the general characteristics of these two Beasts, whereas in chapter 17, they are explained more fully. (*See the relevant verses from Revelation 17 and Daniel 7 in the APPENDIX to these notes*).

### THE BEAST FROM THE SEA (13:1-10)

And he stood on the sand of the seashore and I saw a beast coming up out of the sea having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. 2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard and his feet were like those of a bear and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority. 3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; 4 and they worshiped the dragon, because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?” 5 And there was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. 7 And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. 8 And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written, from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain. 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10 If anyone is destined for captivity, to

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captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed.  
Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.

Verse	Phrase	Notes
<b>1</b>	“And he stood on the sand of the seashore...”	<p>After Satan’s failed final attempt to destroy Israel during the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation, John sees Satan (the dragon) standing on the seashore as if pondering his future plans.</p> <p>The sea or water is representative of Gentile nations and peoples (cf. Rev 17:15 – “The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.”) This understanding is further reinforced by the fact that Satan is presented as having failed in his attempt to eliminate the Jews or Israel.</p>
<b>1</b>	“I saw a beast coming up out of the sea having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.”	As stated in the introduction, we will examine the meaning of the “ten horns” and “seven heads” and the “beast” more fully when we examine chapter 17 where we find more information provided.
<b>2</b>	“And the beast which I saw was like a leopard and his feet were like those of a bear and his mouth like the mouth of a lion.”	<p>We interpret the meaning of the “leopard,” the “bear,” and the “lion” in light of Daniel’s vision of four beasts (world empires) in Daniel 7.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beast #3 – “leopard” – Daniel 7:6 – the Graeco-Macedonian empire.</li> <li>• Beast #2 – “bear” – Daniel 7:5 – the Medo-Persian empire.</li> <li>• Beast #1 – “lion” – Daniel 7:4 – the Babylonian empire.</li> </ul> <p>The “beast” embodies the power of all of the kingdoms that precede its description in Daniel 7 as beast #4 (Dan 7:7ff).</p>
<b>3</b>	“And I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast.”	In my opinion, the best explanation of this verse is that one of the heads (the Antichrist) of the beast (see Rev 17) is rendered a deadly or fatal wound (perhaps an assassination attempt) and is perhaps even killed in the process. The resurrection of a dead person might be beyond Satan’s power; however, other miracles are not – including the healing of a body and the indwelling of a human being. The important point is that this “head” (the Antichrist) is energized and empowered by Satan himself after a supernatural and miraculous pseudo-resurrection. This pseudo-resurrection is enough to convince unbelievers all over the world that Christ has in fact returned and to identify and accept the Antichrist as Christ. (See quote from Bullinger below).
<b>5-6</b>	<p>“And there was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.”</p> <p>“And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.”</p>	<p>Similar descriptions of this world ruler are found in Daniel 7:8, 11, 20; 11:36; Psalm 52). There is an identical description of this ruler in 2 Thessalonians 2:4 – “who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.”</p> <p>His time of superhuman power is limited to 42 months – 3 ½ years per the lunar calendar. This period of 42 months begins with his breaking of the covenant he has previously made with Israel (Dan 9:27) and it will be characterized by his making war against the saints – commencing with the two witnesses of Revelation 11:7. It is during this period that believers in the true Messiah and the “gospel of the kingdom” will be martyred (Rev 6:9; 20:4).</p>
<b>7</b>	“And it was given to him to make	This passage provides evidence that not all will immediately

	war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.”	submit to his rulership and claim to dominion. Hence, this war is designed to compel men to worship him and receive his mark.
8	“And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written, from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.”	Moses knew of this book (Ex 32:32) as did Daniel (Dan 12:1). Compare this to Isaiah 4:3.
10	“If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed.”	This is a Hebrew idiom, a Hebraism, that is a mechanism used to express destiny and denote the certainty of approaching judgment. We find similar phraseology in Jeremiah 43:11 regarding the impending defeat of Egypt by Nebuchadnezzar. (See also Jer 15:2; Ezek 5:2, 12 and Zech 11:9).  What this means is that the strategy of the Beast are so certain to be executed that none will escape them.

*E.W. Bullinger regarding verses 3-4*

It is clear from this that everything is combined in this man to make him not only acceptable to the world, but to call forth their wonder, admiration and praise. He is not in any way a terror to men, but full of blandishments, attractions, allurements, and activities which will be all put forth in the interests of human greatness and happiness. It will be Satan's brief millennium in which mankind will, by every art and artifice, be made happy. It will be a time of peace and progress for the whole world. Great secrets of nature will be discovered; evil angels will be the teachers, and deceiving demons the guides of mankind. Great inventions and discoveries will be made, and turned to the utmost possible account. Philanthropy will be the governing principle of the world. It is fast becoming the dominant principle of the world and of the "Church." The great ethical revival is at our doors. Its advent is announced by the foremost preachers of the day. All this is preparing the way for the man of sin, and the lawless one, who shall be a law unto himself and unto the whole world. Men will delight in him, and regard him as the greatest benefactor the world has ever known. Kings will gladly owe him suzerainty; and behind all will be Satan himself, swaying the hearts, tongues and energies of thousands of willing agents.<sup>1</sup>

**THE BEAST FROM THE LAND (13:11-18)**

11 And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. 12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. 13 And he performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given 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. 15 And there was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast might even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. 16 and he

<sup>1</sup> E.W. Bullinger, *Commentary on Revelation* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel Publications, 1984), 426.

causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand, or on their forehead, 17 and he provides that no one should be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either 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 the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

Verse	Phrase	Notes
11-12	<p>And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.</p> <p>And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.</p>	<p>Elsewhere, this beast is called the “false prophet” (Rev 16:13; 19:20; 20:10).</p> <p>It is significant that this beast is said to arise from the earth vs. the sea. Some theologians have therefore concluded that this “false prophet” is a Jew and comes from the “land.” However, there is no support for this in context since the world for earth is the general word referring to the entire world (Gr. γη).</p> <p>He has two horns, not ten, “like a lamb.” But he spoke as a “dragon,” i.e. consistent with Satan’s plan and purpose. This indicates that he is probably a religious figure of some type whose role is to support the political ruler, the first beast.</p> <p>The false religious system of Satan during this period presents a pseudo-Trinity: Satan represents God the Father; the first beast assumes the place of Jesus Christ, the Son; and the second beast assumes the place of the Holy Spirit who causes or influences people to worship the Son.</p>
13-15	<p>And he performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given 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. 15 And there was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast might even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.</p>	<p>In the day of Moses, Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses (Ex 7:11; 2 Tim 3:8) and to a certain point, performed the same miracles. Elijah caused fire to come down out of heaven more than once (1 Ki 18:38; 2 Ki 1:10, 12). The two witnesses are given power to deal with their enemies in like manner (Rev 11:5).</p> <p>Paul provides a similar description in 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11.</p>

#### APPENDIX

#### *Comparative Verses from Daniel 7*

7 After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a **fourth beast**, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong, and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had **ten horns**. 8 While I was contemplating the horns, behold, **another horn, a little one, came up** among them, and **three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots** before

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it; and behold, **this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth uttering great boasts.** (Dan 7:7-8)

19 Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet, 20 and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts, and which was larger in appearance than its associates. 21 I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom. 23 Thus he said: 'The **fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth**, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and it will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. 24 As for the ten horns, **out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous one and he will subdue three kings.** 25 And he will speak out against the most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times and half a time. 26 But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. 27 Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him." (Dan 7:19-27)

### ***Comparative Verses from Revelation 17***

And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.

The beast that you saw was and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and to go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth will wonder, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come. 9 Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, 10 and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. 11 And the beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. 12 And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. 13 These have one purpose and they give their power and authority to the beast. 14 "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are the called and chosen and faithful."