

- The Dragon Makes War With the Remnant of Her Seed (Rev 12:17-13:10)

**#1. The Beast With Seven Heads and Ten Horns** (Rev 13:1-2, 17:15, Isa 57:20-21, Dan 7:2,3,17)

- Four Beasts Came Up From the Sea (Dan 7:3-7,23,25, Rev 13:2, 1Pet 5:8, Prov 28:15, Hab 1:8)

**#2. One World-Power and Its Government** (Rev 13:1, 12:3, Mat 4:9)

- One of His Heads Was Wounded to Death (Rev 13:3, Ex 28:36, Heb 2:14)

**#3. My Sheep Hear My Voice** (John 10:24-30)

Please open your Bible to the Revelation of Jesus Christ, Rev 12:17 (2X). This is the last verse in Rev 12. We have seen in Rev 12 how the dragon, representing the Devil, has tried to destroy the Christ child and has failed, and we have seen how the Devil has carried on a war for the possession of the OT saints and has failed, and we have seen how the Devil has tried to destroy the woman, representing the NT saints and has failed. And now, in this present time,

- **The Dragon Makes War With the Remnant of Her Seed** (Rev 12:17-13:10)

And now, when we enter into Rev 13 we see how the Devil does make war with the NT saints. First, however, the Devil has to acquire a body. Since the Devil is a spirit he cannot move things, and he cannot carry weapons, and he cannot kill the saints, since he is only a spirit. But when he acquires a body he can do all those things. This is what we see revealed in Rev 13. We read here in Rev 12:17,  
Re 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Re 13:1 ¶ And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

Re 13:2-3 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Re 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?

Re 13:5-6 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty *and* two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

Re 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Re 13:8-9 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear.

Re 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

And thus we see that Satan is very successful after he has acquired a body. In this 13<sup>th</sup> chapter we shall see in what manner Satan makes war with the saints. In principle Satan makes war with God and with His Anointed, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Devil opposes God's plan simply because he wants to hang on to his own kingdom, and thus he will do anything to prevent the realization of the Kingdom of Christ. In this chapter God gives us a picture of "Antichrist". It is very important that we understand this picture, for God says in verse 9, "If any man have an ear, let him hear." The incarnation of God the Son

is Christ. The incarnation of Satan is called "Antichrist". Judas Iscariot was indwelt by Satan, and thus for a short time he can be called Antichrist. Martin Luther proclaimed that the Pope is Antichrist. That is partly true, but do not stop there. There are many more people who are in leadership leading people to Hell. We have to realize that Antichrist is not one person. Since Satan wants to be effective all over the world, he and his demons must indwell many persons at the same time. All the false prophets and false teachers and false pastors are Antichrists, for they all are glorifying Satan. Let us now consider:

**#1. The Beast With Seven Heads and Ten Horns (Rev 13:1-2, 17:15, Isa 57:20-21, Dan 7:2,3,17)**

We have here a chapter that is highly symbolic in nature. Nobody expects to see a monster with 7 heads and 10 horns come up out of the sea. We must remember that Satan works in a very subtil way. He will come as an angel of light. But God portrays him here as a grotesque monster to show his likeness to the dragon. Just like when Jesus said in John 14:9, "he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father", so in like manner this beast that comes up out of the sea bears the image of the dragon.

Re 13:1 ¶ And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

Re 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

The first thing we immediately see in this picture is the remarkable likeness to the dragon, as he is described in Rev 12:3, "And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads". So great is the likeness of the dragon to the beast that many people think that this is the same dragon. But we have to distinguish the dragon, which is a spirit, from the beast, which has an earthly body. And even though the beast is just a symbolic representation of something, God portrays him here as a beast with a physical body. Please turn a few pages further in this prophecy of Revelation to Rev 17:15 (2X). We notice that this beast comes up out of the sea. The sea is the birthplace, the source, or the origin of this beast. There is little doubt that this sea must be taken in the sense of the peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues on the earth. For example, in Rev 17 God describes to us a harlot who sits upon many waters. But she sits also upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. Little doubt that this is the same beast as in Rev 13:1. And then God says in Rev 17:15, "And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." These are the same waters that produced the beast with 7 heads and 10 horns. Moreover, God says in Isa 57:20-21, "But the wicked are like "the troubled sea", when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." And thus the sea does not represent every single individual of mankind, but only the wicked, even though they constitute the majority of mankind. Please turn in your Bibles to the prophecy of Daniel, Dan 7:2 (2X). You find the prophecy of Daniel right after Jeremiah and Ezekiel, about in the middle of your Bibles. The description

of the beast in Rev 13 calls to remembrance the four beasts that are described here in Dan 7. In Dan 7 they are four beasts. In Rev 13 it is only one beast having all the characteristics of the four beasts, which means that these four beasts have now united, have formed a confederacy, and form a united front in their efforts to overthrow the plans of God. We read in Dan 7:2,

Da 7:2-3, Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. And now please drop down to verse 17, Dan 7:17 (2X).

Da 7:17 These great beasts, which are four, *are* four kings, *which* shall arise out of the earth.

And thus we see that the sea in verse 3 does not represent water, but it represents the troubled sea of nations on the earth. And thus we see that it is a very fitting symbol for the wicked all over the world. The peoples and nations of the earth as they are under the power and principle of sin, and as they develop according to this principle, are indeed like unto the troubled sea, war-swept, revolution-swept, plague-swept, famine-swept and troubled all their lives. Let us now continue in Dan 7, for we see that Dan 7 and Rev 13 are intimate entwined. First of all we read in Dan 7:3 about:

- **Four Beasts Came Up From the Sea** (Dan 7:3-7,23,25,Rev 13:2, 1Pet 5:8, Prov 28:15, Hab 1:8)

Perhaps you remember that in Rev 13:2 God said, "And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion". The leopard, the bear and the lion find their origin here in Dan 7. We read in Dan 7:3-7,

Da 7:3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

Da 7:4-6 The first *was* like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and *it had* three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

Da 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and *it was* diverse from all the beasts that *were* before it; and it had ten horns.

What are we seeing here? Some people interpret this chapter as if it represents a series of Kings in the course of history. They read as if the lion represents the kingdom of Babylon, and the bear represents the kingdom of Persia, and the leopard represents the kingdom of Greece. But when you continue to verse 12 this interpretation falls apart. Actually it is in chapter 8 that God portrays for us the kingdoms of Persia and of Greece in a historical fashion, but chapter 7 is given to complement Rev 13. What is the focus here in Dan 7 and in Rev 13? The focus is the FTP when the saints will suffer almost total defeat. Dan 7:25 says, "He shall wear out the saints of the Most High", and Rev 13:7 says, "It was given unto

him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them.” These are terrifying statements. But God placed these words in the Bible to give us advance warning that this would come to pass, so that we could arm ourselves and be spiritually prepared for these dreadful times. Let us now look at these four beasts. First of all, the beast in Rev 13 has a mouth as the mouth of a lion. In Dan 7 the first beast was like a lion, and now we remember that Satan is described in 1Pet 5:8, “as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”. It means that Satan’s workers speak much, but through their speech they are really out to devour the souls of people. And even as the woman in Rev 12 was given the wings of a great eagle, so this beast in Dan 7 had eagle’s wings. Satan, through his Antichrist, tries to imitate the church. But his wings were plucked off, for he cannot provide the spiritual strength that God gives His people. This beast does not save people, but destroys them. But being a spirit, Satan has to work through men, in other words through his Antichrist. So, this beast was made to stand upon the feet as a man, and a man’s heart was given to it, so that he can be called “the man of sin”. Secondly, the beast of Rev 13 has feet as the feet of a bear. In Dan 7 the second beast was like to a bear. The bear is another picture of Satan, or of his Antichrist. God says in Prov 28:15, “As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people.” Satan’s Antichrist is that wicked ruler over the poor people. Moreover, the bear had three ribs in his mouth. In the Garden of Eden God took a rib out of the side of Adam and formed the woman, which Adam later called Eve, for she was the mother of all living (Gen 3:20). Thus in one sense this rib represents the entire human race. But God shows us three ribs in the mouth of the bear. And if three represents the purpose of God, then the picture of the three ribs assures us that Satan’s attempt to devour the whole human race is a part of God’s salvation plan. Thirdly, the beast of Rev 13 was like unto a leopard. In Dan 7 the third beast was like a leopard, which had four wings. God spoke about flying leopards in Hab 1:8. God warned the nation of Judah that He would send the Chaldeans to destroy the nation. God says in Hab 1:8, “Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat.” This third beast has four heads and four wings. The number four indicates universality, meaning “all over the world”. This third beast underscores the universality of Satan’s rule over all nations during the FTP. Fourthly the beast of Rev 13 is characterized by its 7 heads and 10 horns. But the fourth beast in Dan 7 is described as having only ten horns. That is by no means a defect in Daniel’s prophecy. Daniel’s prophecy focuses on the little horn on this fourth beast, and that is why the description of this fourth beast is incomplete in Dan 7:7. But this fourth beast definitely corresponds to the beast that comes out of the sea in Rev 13:1. God gives us this clue in Dan 7:23 (2X), where we read: “The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.” Therefore, when we see the beast in Rev 13:1 in the light that Dan 7:23 gives, we realize that the figure of the beast in Rev 13 represents a great world-power ruling together with its government as

its head. Thus we see that the four beasts in Dan 7 represent the worldwide dominion of Satan as he works through his Antichrists, the embodiments of Satan. It is from verses like these that some people believe that one day there will be one worldwide government with one person as the Antichrist ruling the world. But this interpretation is a far stretch. Please turn again to Rev 13:1 (2X).

## **#2. One World-Power and Its Government** (Rev 13:1, 12:3, Mat 4:9)

Is this beast in Rev 13:1, which represents Antichrist, is it a person, or a power, or a system, or a kingdom? God tells us in Dan 7 that the beast is both the kingdom and the king. Or to frame it in more general terms, the beast represents both the world-power and its government. The beast does not represent a person who in his personal power and strength subdues and controls the whole world. The beast also does not represent a single kingdom or nation that shall subdue and dominate the whole world. But since we see in Rev 13:1 all four beasts combined into one, we realize that there will be a consensus, a mutual agreement, a confederation of a variety of nations, to operate in unison on important matters in the world. And what could be more important to the Devil than to create a heaven on earth, so that mankind does not need God and His heaven any more? This power, as it is pictured in this beast, does not consist of one nation, but it combines within itself all the kingdoms and republics of this world. The kingdoms of this world, usually like wild animals existing to their mutual destruction, have succeeded in forming a unity. The spirits and aspirations of these various beasts have combined into one, so that the world-power represented by this beast in Rev 13, combines in itself all the glory and ambitions of all the kingdoms which have aimed at world-power in the past, and that do aim at it in the present time. This is also symbolized by the ten horns that have now all been crowned. In Rev 12:3 the dragon had seven crowns upon his heads, indicating his rulership over all the nations of the world. But in Rev 13:1 Antichrist has ten crowns upon his horns, indicating that he is extremely successful in furthering the kingdom of the dragon. Although we do not interpret these ten horns as representing ten different kingdoms, we can see that these ten crowns represent a great deal more authority for the dragon. The beast is the incarnation of the dragon who possesses all the kingdoms of this world. The dragon could say to Christ in Mat 4:9, "Fall down and worship me, and I will give thee all the kingdoms of the world". But now the beast has succeeded in actually combining all these kingdoms in such a manner that ultimately they are all serving the dragon. If the number ten symbolizes the completeness of what is in view, then we can see that the crowning of the ten horns indicates the completeness of the kingdom of the dragon over all the world through the workings of his Antichrist, the beast. And the period of history we are talking about is the FTP. Presently we see no such confederation yet. It would mean that the nations of the world that have been called Christian nations would form a confederation with the Muslim nations of the world. Do you think this is impossible? In the days of Pope John Paul we could already see a beginning of this, for this Pope visited a Muslim mosque. If a picture is worth a thousand words, the picture of the unity in grief captured in Pope John Paul's funeral indicated where virtually all the religions are headed. The secular

press fell all over itself to report with astonishment that Protestants, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs joined the Roman Catholics in church services and prayers. It seemed that the mourners came from every nation under heaven, and of so many diverse religions to honor this false Christ, who preached the gospel of salvation by works, and that through the mediation of Mary. Let us now turn to some happier moments and consider:

- **One of His Heads Was Wounded to Death** (Rev 13:3,10, Heb 2:14, Gen 3:15)

Re 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

The Lord Jesus Christ has indeed fatally wounded the head of Satan at the cross. God says in Heb 2:14, "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil".

Exactly as God promised in Gen 3 Christ bruised the head of the serpent. God said in Gen 3:15,  
Ge 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her Seed; He shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.

This was a promise that at the cross Christ would defeat Satan, and He would hurt him as badly as if He had bruised the head of the serpent. And since the beast in Rev 13:1 appears as an image of the dragon, the beast also showed the sign of having been wounded to death. But why was the deadly wound healed? The death blow that Christ dealt Satan is that which guarantees eternal condemnation for Satan on Judgment Day. But Judgment Day will not come until God's program to evangelize the world has fully unfolded. At that time, in AD 33, most of the people whom God has chosen to save must still be born during the NT time period. But as long as this world exists, Satan has still the right to rule over the unsaved. The statement that the deadly wound on Satan has healed appears in the context of "and all the world wondered after the beast". And so we see that only in the blinded eyes of the world does Satan appear healthy and well. The unsaved do not understand what came to pass at the cross. They are just fascinated by what Satan has to offer to them here and now. But God's promise in Heb 2:4 still stands. Satan will have to stand at the Judgment Seat on the Last Day, and he will be found guilty, and he will be cast into Hell. This is a sure promise.

After having declared that Satan will surely be judged, God goes on to say in verse 10 that this is a time that calls for patience and faith on the part of the saints. Why patience? This exhortation applies mainly to those who are living during the end time period, the FTP. We feel terrible to see that churches all over the world are modifying the Word of God just to please men, and they are preaching gospels that do not bring the message that God gave us in the Bible. We feel terrible when we realize that the possibility for our unsaved family members to hear the true Gospel is getting smaller every week. This is a kind of distress that the saints in other periods of history have never experienced, and it is something that the unsaved cannot understand. That is why the Lord warned us that the Great Tribulation would be

different from the trials that the saints have experienced in the past. And that is why we need patience and faith to live through this period of great tribulation.

### **#3. My Sheep Hear My Voice** (Rev 13:7, John 10:24-30)

We need faith! When we read Rev 13:7 we are frightened by these words. Will Antichrist overcome us, will he kill us, and will we lose our salvation? Remember that our God is immutable in His plans and actions. It means our God does not change. Please turn in your Bibles to the Gospel according to John, John 10:24 (2X). We have here an event that may give us great comfort in times when we doubt our eternal destiny, or in a time when we wonder if Antichrist shall be able to overcome us. The scene is in the temple at Jerusalem, some time after the Lord Jesus had given the parable that He is the Good Shepherd. We read in John 10:24,

Joh 10:24-25 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

Joh 10:26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

Joh 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Joh 10:28-29 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

Joh 10:30 I and *my* Father are one.

First focus on verse 26. The Lord Jesus said, "Ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep". He did not say, "Because ye believe not, ye are not of my sheep". This would be the gospel that many preachers today are preaching: "If you do not reach out to Jesus, you cannot be saved". But Jesus clearly said, "Ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep", thereby indicating that only those who belong to His sheep, whom the Father has given Him according to verse 29, only those will believe that He is their Savior. Clearly the Lord Jesus has election in view, and clearly the Lord Jesus indicated that the natural man will not believe because he is unable to believe. Secondly, let us look at verse 27. The Lord Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice". He did not refer to His audible voice. We must remember that God ceased to give Divine revelation after God finished Rev 22:18. The Lord Jesus was referring to the Bible. Do we hear His voice in our minds when we read the Bible? Do we gladly read the Bible? And why do we gladly read the Bible? Is it because we then hear the voice of our Bridegroom? Absolutely Yes! This is why we rejoice to read and study His Word. But are there verses in the Bible that we do not like? Are we getting a little uneasy when the Bible confronts us with the sovereignty of God, or with election and reprobation, or with God's promises of Hell and damnation? If so, then we are displeased with Jesus when He wrote these words, and we then should honestly ask ourselves if we have been saved. But if we examine ourselves and we see that we rejoice in everything we can find in the Bible, then we know



that God has done a wonderful work in our soul, for this is not something that the natural man rejoices in. And so, if we see that God has done this miracle in our soul, let us move on to the next verse, verse 28, where the Lord Jesus said, "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand." This is a promise from God, and we should not doubt His promise. If we live in the FTP, and times are rough, and students in school are a pain in the neck, and in an unguarded moment we blow our stack, and the situation at home is unfriendly, and so on, then remember that Jesus said, "They shall never perish", for if He has paid for our sins at the cross, nothing will be able to remove His grace away from us until the end of time. This is our cherished possession until Jesus comes again and takes us home. AMEN.

Let us turn to the Lord in prayer.