

Revelation Chapter 13

Bible verses are from the New American Standard Bible and are highlighted in blue and italics.

Verse 1

And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then 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.

“Seashore” is literally the “Sea.”

In Revelation chapter 11:7, we see the same beast, but he is said to come up out of the Abyss; a real place, but a spiritual place.

In Revelation chapter 17:8, this beast again is said to come up out of the Abyss – bottomless pit.

So, the beast comes out of the “Abyss” according to Revelation chapter 11:7 and 17:8, but comes from out of the Sea here in our verse in Revelation 13:1.

Which is it? Does he come out of the Sea or the Abyss? The answer is YES.

Coexisting with our physical earth, in particular, the sea and bodies of water of earth, is a real but spiritual place scripture calls “The Abyss”. It’s like the idea of parallel dimensions of existence.

The Abyss is a real place, where some. But not all demonic powers exist.

In Romans 10:7, Paul quotes a scripture in Deuteronomy 30:13, but Paul uses the word “Abyss” where Deuteronomy uses the word “Sea”. Evidently, Paul understood this parallel between the Sea and Abyss.

Just as a side note here, we are not talking about the “many waters” of Revelation 17:15, which are explained to be the multitudes of peoples of the world. The “Sea” here in Revelation 13 is a different thing.

In Chapter 21, John saw “A New Heaven” and “A New Earth”, and “there is no longer any Sea.” There is no longer an abode of demons called the Abyss, the Sea. The Abyss is a place of incarceration; it’s a jail for certain demonic fallen angels. Revelation chapter 9:14 refers to demonic, fallen angels “bound at the Great River Euphrates.”

I say all this to show this beast out of the Sea is a spiritual entity, not a man. He is like a pseudo-Holy Spirit, or an anti-holy spirit. He will indwell a particular human man, the anti-christ.

Dragon/Satan - Anti-god figure
Beast from Abyss/Sea – Anti-holy spirit
The Human man – Anti-christ

Lucifer’s false, pseudo – trinity

Another figure in Chapter 13 is the false prophet, an anti-John the Baptist figure.

Satan’s a counterfeiter. He’s seen what God has done. And he says “I can do that just as well. I can have a trinity as good as yours God.”

10 horns are 10 kings over the earth at the end of age who agree to give their power to one man, anti-christ.

7 heads, 7 empires of ages filled with the anti-christ spirit, beginning with Ancient Egypt of Moses' day.

6 are already past history relative to our current day, one is yet to come. 7 empires of history particularly oppressive of God's chosen nation Israel.

Verse 2

²And 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.

This is not a riddle, we don't have to guess and wonder what these beasts are, Daniel chapter 7 tells us clearly.

The leopard was one of the 7 heads, empire of Greece; the bear was the Persian Empire and the Lion was Babylon.

The beast of the last days is like these other three anti-god empires of history, and is energized by all their same spirit. All these 7 heads are one single dragon, Satan.

Any person that does not have the spirit of God is likened to that of a beast in the field. Not regarding God, but only its own immediate will and circumstance.

The best way to understand these things is not just to scratch your head and invent clever/fantastic interpretations, or to read sensationalistic books. The best way is to read and understand Old Testament scripture, which sheds light on these things.

The Old Testament gives this beast spirit that indwells anti-christ a name. Isaiah 27:1 refers to this very beast

Isaiah 27:1

*¹In that day the LORD will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent,
With His fierce and great and mighty sword,
Even Leviathan the twisted serpent;
And He will kill the dragon who lives in the sea.*

Psalms 74:13-14

*¹³You divided the sea by Your strength;
You broke the heads of the sea monsters in the waters.
¹⁴You crushed the heads of Leviathan;
You gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.*

Isaiah and the Psalmist did not know what they were writing, but the Holy Spirit is logical and consistent as he inspires His word.

Here in chapter 13, He gives us fuller revelation of Leviathan, the multi-headed beast of the sea that the Holy Spirit spoke of many centuries ago.

The beast is a spirit from the Abyss, and he indwells the man anti-christ. Just as you can't distinguish between Jesus Christ the man, and the Holy Spirit who indwells Him, so it's difficult to distinguish between this man anti-christ and the spirit from the Abyss that indwells him.

Verse 3

³I 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;

Some writers: Roman Empire dead and now resurrected. Others man anti-christ has a fatal wound that gets healed in Revelation Chapter 12:12. I see both as true, but man anti-christ has a fatal wound that's healed, almost a pseudo resurrection.

Just as we worship God, and the resurrected Jesus Christ, so will the "dwellers on the earth" worship the dragon Satan and the anti-christ with the fatal wound that didn't kill him, I wouldn't be surprised if it's a wound in the side, like Jesus' spear wound from Centurion.

⁴they 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?"

⁵There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.

⁶And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

⁷It was also 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.

Verse 8

⁸All 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.

In Ephesians, Paul says it was written from before the foundation of the world.

Prophet Jeremiah: "While you were still in your mother's womb, I knew you."

Cyrus the Persian King: God referred to him by name 150 years before he was born.

⁹If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

¹⁰if anyone is destined for captivity, to 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.

¹¹Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.

¹²He 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.

Verse 13

¹³He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.

1. Fatal wound
2. Fire from clear sky

"For false Christ's and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. "Matthew 24:24

Only those with the Holy Spirit of the Lord, forewarned by scripture, can stand up under this very strong delusion.

¹⁴And 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.

Verse 15

¹⁵And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

Reminiscent of the story in Daniel where Nebuchadnezzar set up an image to be worshipped; if you don't fall down and worship it, you die. You remember the reply of Daniel's three friends to Nebuchadnezzar:

Daniel 3:17-18

¹⁷"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

¹⁸" But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

People of the Lord, at this time, who are not cowardly, will not bow to this resuscitation of idolatry.

This image can even speak; this has never been true of any idol in history.

Sibylline oracles, but that was human voices behind dumb stone.

A speaking idol will be part of the incredible deception.

Verse 16

¹⁶And he 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,

False prophet:

1. Perform great signs (verse 13)
2. Deceived those who dwell on Earth (verse 14)
3. Gives breath to image of beast (verse 15)

Now in verse 16, 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.

Mark

The Greek word is engraving or branding in skin, not tattoo.

It has more than economic significance it also has a religious connotation. If you take this mark, you are giving your willing assent that you accept this man for what he claims to be and you accept this work system you're in, and you become part of it. It's a world Babylonian religion of the last days, and you're giving yourself irrevocably over to it.

You have no hope – you're going to Hell if you take this mark. It's an economic/religious world system intertwined.

Do you remember when we studied the reasons for Lucifer's original rebellion? He wanted to be worshipped as God and he loved wealth.

Name of beast and number of his name are both the same thing. A number and a name both together.

“and he provides that no one will 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.

Verse 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.

There is probably more written about this scripture than any other piece of literature.

Wisdom is the Greek word Sophia. It's not speaking of the type of wisdom you'd mean if you said "Fear of the Lord is beginning of wisdom."

More specific than that, it's specific God-given ability and insight to understand pieces of a puzzle and put them together correctly in order to see overarching structure. It's not the ability, but skill is also involved.

Intelligence, cleverness, insight, skill

The word understanding here has a moral connotation. Someone who does not belong to the Lord will not have this gift and ability. Smart, intelligent, clever, skilled and with insight from the Holy Spirit and full of the Holy Spirit.

This gifted person will have the ability to do a calculation. The idea that 666 is perfectly falling short of the Lord's perfect number 7 does not do justice to this verse. It does not address the depth of this verse.

A gifted person as described is the only type who will be able to do a calculation to identify this beast. We can't do it now because the anti-christ has not yet been revealed, but the person so gifted at this time will find it easy. We can't do the calculation now, but can still say some things about it.

Many ancient languages: Greek, Hebrew, Latin and others. The letters of the alphabet served more than one purpose. They also stood for numbers.

1st nine letters stood for numbers 1-9, next 9 letters stood for numbers 10-90 and so forth.

The System of Gematria - I can't say for sure how much application this has to this.

There will be some kind of way like this to identify who this man anti-christ is.

There's going to be irresistible deception in those days – there is pretty strong deception now. But it speaks volumes about the Lord's word that many multitudes upon hearing the word will turn from the deception and be saved.

These scriptures fascinate us, but they're not given just to fascinate. They're here for a number of reasons.

We need to understand the times in which we live, and the spirit of the age. This anti-christ spirit has always existed through history. It's been bubbling up all along. It still exists now.

George Bernard Shaw who said that all that's required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing.

We need to be the salt and light in our world. Otherwise, the world will degenerate – even to the point of idolatry, gross immortality, not consciously regarding God. A world we'd find repellent.

We need to be salt and light while it is day. Night comes – when no man can work.