

"The Significant Characters of the Tribulation"

Part 5

Revelation 12-14

Introduction: Today in our study of Revelation we have come to a chapter that is going to prove to be very significant. It is Revelation 13 and in this chapter, we are going to meet two major players in the Tribulation. In this chapter we will meet two BEASTS. One of them will be the Anti-Christ and the other will be the False Prophet. As we work our way through this chapter we will spend time in the book of Daniel 2 and Daniel 7. We will also spend time in Matthew 24 as well as other passages of Scripture.

Now we met this man called the Anti-Christ when we started into the Seal Judgments.

Revelation 6:1-2

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

² *And I saw, and behold a white horse: and **he that sat on him** had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.*

Here is where we met the Anti-Christ. He was pictured riding a white horse and carrying a bow. He comes on the scene in a very peaceful way. He establishes the False Covenant with the Nation of Israel and he promises protection for them. In this first seal we were not directly exposed to his true character. But in chapter 13 we shall see the true character of this man of sin.

I. The First Beast

Notice Revelation 13:1

We are going to take our time looking at the details of this verse. The first thing which we need to notice is John sees this Beast rise out of the sea. This by the way is Satan's masterpiece. This is the Anti-Christ.

The fact that he rises out of the sea tells us his origin. In the Bible the sea speaks of the Gentile Nations and the land speaks of the Nation of Israel. This can be seen in two parables which Jesus told.

Matthew 13:44

⁴⁴ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

This parable points to the Nation of Israel. The Nation has been purchased and now it is hidden but when Christ returns He will claim His possession. Now let me show you the next parable.

Matthew 13:45-46

⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

⁴⁶ Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

The PEARL here represents the CHURCH. It comes from the oyster which comes from the sea and we know that the church is made up of people from all nations. Now let me show you what the Mosaic Law said concerning oysters.

Leviticus 11:9-10

⁹ These shall ye eat of all that are in the waters: whatsoever hath fins and scales in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers, them shall ye eat.

¹⁰ And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which is in the waters, they shall be an abomination unto you:

Anything from the water that did not have fins and scales was considered to be unclean. Thus, were we unclean because of sin. From these two parables we can see that the sea represents the Gentile nations and the land represents Israel.

Notice Revelation 13:11

The second Beast who is the False Prophet will rise from the earth or the land which most likely means he will be Jewish.

Notice Revelation 13:1 again.

This Beast that rises from the sea has 7 heads and 10 horns.

Notice Revelation 12:3

Here we see the very same thing said about the Great Red Dragon. This tells us the Beast and Satan will be very closely connected. But there is far more that we need to see here.

We need to understand what the HEADS and the HORNS speak of.

The 7 heads are 7 Kingdoms.

Revelation 17:9-10

⁹ *And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.*

¹⁰ *And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.*

In verse 10 it should read "These are 7 kings". We are told here that 5 are fallen, 1 is, and 1 is yet to come. Let me explain what is being said here. The 5 that were fallen had existed before John's day. We can know 4 of them for sure for they are spoken of in the book of Daniel. They would be Babylon, Medo Persia, Greece or Alexandrian and Rome. The other 2 are probably Nimrod's kingdom and Egypt.

In Revelation 17:10 we see that 1 is. This kingdom would be Rome. The 1 that is yet to come is the Kingdom of the Anti-Christ which will also be Rome.

Notice Revelation 13:1 again.

The Beast also has 10 horns. This is also interpreted by the Bible.

Revelation 17:12-13

¹² *And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.*

¹³ *These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.*

The 10 kings had received no kingdom as of John's day. This tells us they will all be connected with the 7th kingdom that is yet to come which will be the kingdom of the Anti-Christ.

Now let me show you what Daniel says concerning the horns and the Kingdom they will be part of.

Daniel 7:2-7, 24-25

² Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

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

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

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.**

²⁴ And the **ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise**: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

²⁵ And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

These 10 kings will be allied with the Anti-Christ.

Notice Revelation 13:1 again.

We are told that upon his heads the name of blasphemy. This speaks of the character of the Anti-Christ.

Daniel 11:36-37

³⁶ *And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.*

³⁷ *Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.*

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

² *That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*

³ *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

⁴ *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

I will show you why he will exalt himself as we move on.

Notice Revelation 13:2

Here we see that the beast was like a leopard, a bear and a lion. Now this is a very interesting statement. This is the opposite of the order which Daniel was permitted to see in his night vision.

Daniel 7:1-6

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

² Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

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

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

These beasts that Daniel saw were world empires. The LION was Babylon. The BEAR was Medo Persia. The Leopard was Alexander the Great or GREECE.

Daniel was looking from his day forward and this is the order they would come into being. John is looking back and he sees them from Greece to Medo Persia back to Babylon.

But there is more here. The fact that all three of these animals/kingdoms were seen in the Anti-Christ tells us that part of every one of these kingdoms will exist within the 4th terrible kingdom which is the Kingdom of the Anti-Christ. Let me show you what Daniel said concerning this 4th Kingdom.

Daniel 7:7

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.

Daniel 7:23

²³ Thus he said, 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.

Let me show you that remnants of each of these Kingdoms will exist when Christ returns to set up His Kingdom.

Daniel 2:31-35

³¹ Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

³² This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

³³ His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

³⁴ Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

³⁵ Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

This is Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The GOLD represented Babylon. The SILVER represented Medo Persia. The BRASS represented GREECE. The IRON represented Rome. In verse 35 when the Stone which represents Christ and His Kingdom smashes into the image it shatters them all together WHICH TELLS US PART OF EACH ONE WILL STILL EXIST.

Notice Revelation 13:2 again.

Satan will give to the Anti-Christ his power and his seat of authority and the Anti-Christ will take it. Now let me show you something from when Jesus was tempted by the Devil.

Luke 4:5-7

⁵ And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

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⁶ And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

⁷ If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

Conclusion:

You need to be saved so that you will not live under the rule of the Anti-Christ.