

“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA”

Rev. 13:1-10

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INTRODUCTION

“You have heard that the antichrist will come” (I John 2:18). Here John describes his appearance.

[A monster arising out of the sea with horns, heads, body, and a mutilated head]

There have been many claimants to be the antichrist in both the past and present time. But great world leaders cannot “hold a candle” to this man: e.g. Nimrod, Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander, Hitler, Mussolini, etc.

Jesus warned that “false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect” (Mt. 24:24). Many such false Christs have come.

It is important for us to acknowledge that the “Beast” is both the Empire and the King:

- e.g. 19:20 where he is thrown into the lake of fire
- An image is made of him.
- He is worshiped.
- He is called “the man of sin.”

The believer need not fear this man, for his doom is sure and his plan will fail; whereas believers will inherit the kingdom and eventually the new heavens and new earth.

I. THE AWFUL BEAST (1-3a)

- See Daniel 7:8; 9:26; 11:36; II Thes. 2:3; I Jn. 2:18-22.
- Out of the sea: Daniel 7:2; cf. Isaiah 57:20-21; Revelation 17:15.

A. His Appearance

1. ___ horns with 10 crowns (cf. Daniel 7:7) [these are contemporary confederate rulers –Rev. 17:12-13.
2. ___ heads with names of blasphemy (cf. Roman emperors)
 - 17:9-11 – successive kingdoms, not emperors.
 - The beast only had one head at a time!
3. The body: a leopard, bear, and lion (cf. Daniel 7:4-7).
4. A mortal wound that has been healed
 - cf. 5:6—actually died
 - Not so much the ruler as the Kingdom—see 13:14; 17:8ff
 - The kingdom would not die with one emperor’s death.
 - Cf. theories of Caligula, Nero, etc.
 - There are theological problems with the resurrected man theory; Scriptures tell us there is no return from death, and Satan does not have power over the dead – contrary to popular theories.
 - He is said to come out of the abyss – a realm associated with fallen Angels who have been connected with Satan.
 - This is not a returned soul – an unscriptural concept.
 - It is possible that through magic and sleight-of-hand there may be an appearance of a return to life.

- B. His authority – cf. Matthew 28:18
 1. Source: the _____ (2b; 4a); includes the permissive will of the Lord (5, 7).
 2. Duration: 3 ½ years – v. 5
 3. Extent: universal (7b; cf. Daniel 7:23)
- C. His arrogance (5-6)
 - cf. Daniel 7:8, 11, 25
 - “Mr. Mouth”—arrogance and blasphemy
 - “Open his mouth” refers to his being an orator and making discourses.
 1. Against _____ and his name (Matthew 24:15; II Thes. 2:4; cf. Dan. 11:36-45)
 2. Against God’s tabernacle – i.e. His _____ who are in heaven and citizens of heaven – cf. Dan. 8:10 (persecution of saints under angelic protection).
- D. His atrocities (7)
 - Against believers: persecution and death (Daniel 7:25; 9:27; 12:10 etc.)
 - He “overcomes them” – yet see 15:2 and 12:11.

II. THE ADORING WORLD (3b-4, 8)

- A. Their Amazement (3b)
- B. Their _____ (4, 8a)
 - His ability and might – not to his character: “Who is like the Beast?”
 - They picked the wrong kind of hero on the wrong basis.
 - “Who can make war with the beast?” – The answer is Jesus Christ (19:11ff.).

III. THE ATTACKED BELIEVERS (8-10)

- A. Attention! If you have ears, listen. (9)
- B. Attitudes (10)
 1. _____ of Persecution (cf. Jer. 15:2; 43:11; different application here)
 2. Refusal to take _____ (cf. Mt. 26:52)
- C. Assurance
 1. Book of _____ (8b)
 - Name written
 - Lamb’s Book—redemption, “who was slain”
 - Slain from the foundation of the world—before creation.
 2. Perseverance and _____ (10)

CONCLUSION

Even Antichrist cannot hurt true believers.

Pay attention!

Have the right attitudes.

Be Assured

The believer need not fear this man, for his doom is sure and his plan will fail; whereas believers will inherit the kingdom and eventually the new heavens and new earth.