**Revelation**

*Lesson 26 – Revelation 13:1-10*

1. At the end of chapter 12, verse 17b says that Satan is standing on the sand of the sea. Satan is in the middle of waging war on the saints – those offspring of the woman – and he is calling for help.
2. Immediately, in 13:1 John sees a beast rising out of the sea. What is happening is Satan is summoning this beast to come forth to aid him in his war on the woman’s offspring.
3. This beast combines elements from the four beasts that Daniel sees in Daniel 7.
   1. 1st beast – like a lion, but given 2 feet like a man and the mind of a man (Daniel 7:4)
   2. 2nd beast – like a bear, given power to devour (Daniel 7:5)
   3. 3rd beast – like a leopard with 4 heads (Daniel 7:6)
   4. 4th beast – iron teeth and 10 horns (Daniel 7:7)
4. So Daniel’s beasts are like a lion, bear, leopard, and 10 horns, which is exactly what we see here with this beast in Revelation 13. This beast is a composite of all those beasts from Daniel.
5. In Daniel, the 4 beasts represented 4 worldly kingdoms – Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. The Lord interprets Daniel’s vision for him and says in Daniel 7:23-24, “As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. 24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings.”
6. Since John’s beast is a composite of Daniel’s beasts and those beasts represent evil kingdoms and rulers, we can conclude that all the evil characteristics of those worldly kingdoms are combined into this beast so that **this beast represents all earthly kingdoms/nations along with their rulers that persecute the people of God**.
7. Even the fact that this beast rises out of the sea is significant. Throughout the OT, the “sea” and “sea creatures” represent evil, chaos, and ungodly kingdoms that Yahweh fights against. Isaiah 27:1 – “In that day the Lord with his hard and great and strong sword will punish **Leviathan the fleeing serpent**, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and **he will slay the dragon that is in the sea**.” Psalm 74:13-14 – “You divided the sea by your might; **you broke the heads of the sea monsters on the waters**. You crushed **the heads of Leviathan**; you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.” Ezekiel 32:2-3 – “Son of man, raise a lamentation over Pharaoh king of Egypt and say to him: “You consider yourself a lion of the nations, but **you are like a dragon in the seas**; you burst forth in your rivers, trouble the waters with your feet, and foul their rivers. Thus says the Lord God: I will throw my net over you with a host of many peoples, and **they will haul you up in my dragnet**.”
8. And with this beast we see 10 horns on which sit 10 diadems (crowns) and it has 7 heads, just like Satan in chapter 12 had 7 heads with 10 horns and had diadems sitting on those horns. This beast is an agent of Satan and is given Satan’s authority and power, verse 2b. The 7 headed and 10 horned dragon gave power, throne, and authority to the 7 headed and 10 horned beast of the sea. The number 10 remember is symbolic for worldwide or universal and 7 is completeness, so this beast has complete oppressive power throughout the world. The beast makes itself out to be a king by wearing crowns and sitting on Satan’s mockery of a throne.
9. One of the heads of the beast receives a fatal wound, but that wound is healed which causes the whole earth to marvel and worship both Satan and the beast. What does this mortal wound and healing mean?
10. The word for “wound” is elsewhere translated as “plague” in Revelation and so just as those plagues come forth from God, this beast’s head is wounded and slain by God. This seems to be a reference to Christ with His death and resurrection. It was a fatal blow for Satan. It’s when Satan was cast out of heaven and bound. And yet Satan still continues exercising influence upon the earth through ungodly world government. Greg Beale writes, “The dragon is so convincing at camouflaging his defeat as apparent victory that the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast.” Satan no longer has direct access to God’s throne room. Satan no longer as the power to accuse God’s people. The strong man has been bound. And yet Satan still exercises considerable influence despite the winning and decisive blow at the Cross. So much so that it causes people to say, “Who is like the beast?” which is a mockery of the incomparability of God. Isaiah 40:18 – “To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him?”
11. Greg Beale writes, “Whenever any major opponent of God reaches his demise, it appears as if the beast has been defeated, yet he will arise again in some other form, until the end of history. Such revivals make it appear as if Christ’s defeat of the devil was not very decisive. But such revivals are under the ultimate hand of God, who ‘gives authority.’”
12. Vern Poythress notes that this Beast is a counterfeit of Christ or anti-Christ.

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| The beast is an image of Satan (Rev. 13:1) | Jesus is the image of the Father (Col 1:15; Heb 1:3) |
| The beast has 10 crowns (Rev. 13:1) | Christ has many crowns (Rev. 19:12) |
| The beast has blasphemous names written (Rev. 13:1) | Christ has worthy names written (Rev. 19:12,16) |
| The beast has power, throne, and authority from Satan (Rev. 13:2) | Christ has power (Rev. 5:12-13), throne (Rev. 3:21), and authority (Rev. 12:10) from the Father (John 5:21-23) |
| The beast has a fatal wound that is healed (Rev 13:3) | Christ was killed then raised to life |
| Worship is directed to the dragon and beast (Rev. 13:4) | Worship is directed to the Father and Son (John 5:23) |
| The beast utters blasphemies (Rev. 13:5-6) | Christ utters the praises of God (Heb 2:12) |
| The beast is a warrior waging war against the saints (Rev. 13:7) | Christ is a warrior waging war against the beast (Rev. 19:11-21) |

1. “Satan’s plans are executed by the governments of the world. These earthly rulers are subject to and receive their inspiration from Satan! This is true with respect to every worldly ruler who persecutes the Church. These rulers and governments blaspheme God and demand for themselves divine titles. This composite beast cannot symbolize merely one empire or government. It must indicate all anti-Christian governments.” –William Hendriksen
2. And in verses 5-8, this Beast is allowed to wage war. The duration of the beast’s authority is 42 months which refers to what? During this time, the Beast will blaspheme God, blaspheme God’s name (=character), blaspheme God’s people and conquer (kill) them. Daniel 7:21-22 – “As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.”
3. And yet God is sovereign even over all of this. God limits the time period of the authority of the beast (42 months) and the beast “is allowed” (verse 5) to exercise authority and “allowed to make war on saints” (verse 7) and “allowed to conquer them” (verse 7) and those who worship the beast are constrained to those whom God has not elected (verse 8).
4. And in verse 9 we see a familiar refrain that was found in Revelation 2-3 in the addresses to the 7 churches. Which means that this was not only for the readers in John’s day, but also for you and me today and all Christians until Christ returns. We must be aware of the activity of the beast and dragon so we can resist their deceptions and threats.
5. Verse 10 combines Jeremiah 15:2 and Jeremiah 43:11 and means this: We are to patiently endure all distresses that God has ordained for us to go through, believing in God’s faithfulness, His promises and His triumph through Christ, which energizes, motivates, and sustains us from all beastly and dragon attacks. “These things must happen, but believers must persevere in their faith and not give in.” –Greg Beale

**Message for Us**

1. “The Beast represents in the first place demonized state power that demands worship. As with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Dan. 3), the demonized state threatens to kill Christians unless they bow down. In democratic countries, the state does not insist on literal worship. But citizens are tempted to look to the state as if it were a messiah. It is the greatest concentration of earthly power, and so it must be the remedy for all ills – economic, social, medical, moral, and even spiritual.” –Vern Poythress
2. “Drawing the readers’ attention to the context in Daniel 7 is intended to encourage them about the ultimate outcome of history and their own destiny. Though they suffer from oppression by the state, they will be the ultimate conquerors and will rule eternally with the Son of Man.” –Greg Beale
3. “The beast aspires to universal control and allegiance from every tribe, people, language, and nation (v.7). But ultimately all nations belong to Christ (5:9). The necessity for decision is set out in black and white. One must give ultimate allegiance either to Christ or to the Beast. One cannot be neutral. All except the saints go after the Beast, since, apart from Christ, people remain in the power of Satan and darkness (Col. 1:13; Eph. 2:1-3; Gal. 1:4; Acts 4:12).” –Vern Poythress