

The Revelation Chapter 13 devotes considerable effort in describing the character and works, both past and future, of the **Beast from the Sea**. The Holy Spirit has given particular details to the identity of the Beast from the Sea so that all with "ears to hear" might hear and understand the message of utmost importance. From our previous study, we have identified the Beast from the Sea to be the same power that the prophet Daniel called the *Little Horn*, namely, the papacy. This power embodies the primary component of the triumvirate made up of the *Dragon*, the *Beast from the Sea*, and the *Beast from the Earth*. Recall that the chapter commenced with John the revelator standing upon the shores as he watched the beast arise from the sea. Often the experiences of the prophets in the Bible typify future events. The prophets enact the revelation, or life experiences that will take place in those who hear the message, or for whom the message is primarily intended [see Isaiah 8:18, 20:2-4; Ezek 12:1-15, 24:15-24; Rev 10:8-11]. John, while standing with his back to the land and looking out towards the sea fulfills this principle, where he stands prophetically in a period between historical events. The events are namely, the rise of the Beast from the Sea and its subsequent fall, followed by the rise of the Beast from the Earth; the latter of which will be discussed in the next study. Revelation 13:3 describes the things that occur at this inflection point.

**Q:** *What does it mean that the Beast from the Sea receives a "deadly wound"? What may be implied by a deadly wound being healed? Who else in history received a mortal wound*

*and lived again?*

**A:** The Bible describes the temporal fall of the papacy in A.D.1798 at the hands of Napoleon Bonaparte. Called the **Papal Captivity**, the event was a direct result of the **Protestant Reformation**. Over the course of two centuries, the Protestant Reformation [or *The Reformation*] exposed the pride, hypocrisy, and stark abuses of the Church of Rome. The unchained Bible brought light which caused the papacy to lose the grip it held on the minds of men for 1,260 years. The Papal Captivity occurred as Pope Pius VI was exiled from Rome to Valence, France due to his resistance to Napoleon's attempts to reunite Europe and resurrect the former Roman Empire under his rule. Pius died the following year as a captive, and Napoleon refused to have another pope appointed for an additional three years, thus breaking the papal succession of 1,260 years. The Papal Captivity resulted in the papacy losing the three things it received at the start of its reign, namely: its **seat** of authority, Rome; its **power**, the military support of European monarchs; and lastly its **great authority** to rule over peasants and kings alike. The Bible foretells that these three things taken from the papacy will be restored in time, thus healing the deadly wound. The Bible also illustrates the devilish counterfeit of Jesus Christ by the papacy, claiming to be the **Vicar of Christ**, in that Jesus also received a mortal wound that was healed after three days by His resurrection.

Revelation 13:4 and verse 8 are as bookends, describing future events to transpire once the papacy's deadly wound is

healed; while verses 5-7 of the chapter provide a recap of the Beast from the Sea's history. Let us briefly review that history before understanding those things that are soon to come. Read John 10:30-33 and Mark 2:5-12:

**Q:** *What are some examples of great words of blasphemy? Also, how long prophetically is 42months (Revelation 13:5)?*

**A:** Blasphemous words entail professing to be God, or assuming prerogatives only belonging of God, such as the ability to forgive sins. Papal prelates exercised ecclesiastical rule and taught doctrines that controlled the minds and



feelings of both kings and commoners for centuries, all of whom lacked access to the direct teachings of the Bible. The boast of popes, to be king over heaven, earth, and the underworld is evinced in the **Triple-Crown Tiara**. Inscribed with the epithet, *Vicarius Filii Dei*, meaning 'Representative of the Son of God', the

wearers of the crown suggest that all upon the earth, the dead in the fabled 'underworld', and God Himself in heaven are subject to their judgments. This demonstration of blasphemous, absolute power would continue for forty-two prophetic months. Recalling the **day-for-a-year** Bible prophecy principle, we come to understand the term forty-two months to mean:

$$42 \text{ months} \times (30 \text{ prophetic days}/1 \text{ month}) = 1,260 \text{ prophetic days} = \mathbf{1,260 \text{ literal years}}$$

The Bible declares that the blasphemous words and

teachings of popes would draw offense to God, His sanctuary and those who dwell in heaven (Revelation 13:6).

**Q:** *How did popes blaspheme God's sanctuary? Who are they that dwell in heaven that are also blasphemed? Consider the following verses:*

- Ephesians 1:3
- Eph 2:6; 3:14, 15
- John 18:36
- John 17:14-16
- Colossians 3:1-5
- Hebrews 12:22, 23
- Psalm 34:8, 9
- Daniel 7:25
- Revelation 13:7

**A:** Jesus Christ, forty days after His death, burial, and triumphant resurrection, ascended to the heavenly sanctuary to assume the role of **High Priest and Advocate** of men. As a righteous and compassionate High Priest, Jesus bids us come boldly to His throne of grace that we may receive mercy and forgiveness of sin in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16; 1 John 1:9). Power hungry, manipulative men, whose ultimate goal was to control the minds and wealth of the masses, commandeered this blessed gift of intercession by Christ, bringing forgiveness and newness of life to the believer. The papal confessional seeks to usurp God's promised victory over sin by faith of Jesus Christ, for vain rituals. This and other rites of men all cheapen the priceless cost for man's salvation, the death of Christ. Further, the Bible states that all who have accepted Jesus as both Lord and Savior are of the household of God, who "*sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus*", and are the **saints**. Papal *beatification* and *canonization*, the pronouncement of saints by mere men, is an offense to believers who are the true heirs of the **Eternal Kingdom**

prepared for them by God (John 14:1-3; Hebrews 11:8-10).

The Bible lastly declares in Revelation 13:7 that the papal system would war against the saints, and power (military and civil authority) would be granted it "over all kindreds, tongues and nations." A more accurate description could not be given the global, despotic rule by the papacy during the 1,260-year period known as the **Dark Ages**. It is estimated that over 50 million people were martyred while protesting this fiendish institution during that era.

Verse 10, like verse 3, providentially restates the fate of the system that ruled the earth for 1,260 years:

*"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." Revelation 13:10*

In fulfillment of prophecy, the apostate church system that imprisoned, martyred, and persecuted saints, was itself led into captivity. That which killed with the sword of violence, would itself be taken by force, and exiled. This last prophetic truth was fulfilled and empowered by the invention of the **Printing Press**, which made the Bible, the **Sword of the Spirit** (Eph 6:17; Heb 4:12), widely available to men. The unchained Bible freed men's minds from the baneful deceptions of priests and prelates. The treasured promises written in God's word- the long-desired hope of exiled saints during centuries of papal persecution [the *Church in the Wilderness*], and anchor for many who will again face such threats, are the "patience and faith" by which they live.

This brief historical account of the works of the papacy leads our study to this world-power's not too distant future, when its deadly wound will be fully healed, described in Revelation 13:4, 8. These verses draw startling parallels that should cause all who read them to shudder:

<p><i>"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?"</i> Revelation 13:4</p>	<p><i>"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."</i> Revelation 13:8</p>
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Verse 4 clearly states that this earthly system is empowered by God's enemy, Satan. The Bible also conveys that those who [unknowingly] worship according to this system or follow its precepts pay homage to Satan rather than to God.

**Q:** Consider the manner in which the beast power is to be worshipped; does the worship appear to be coerced or willingly rendered?

**A:** Those who in amazement "wonder after" the beast system pay homage to it with great "admiration" and respect (Revelation 17:6). The Bible describes the healing of the beast's deadly wound to be made manifest by the "working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" 2 Thessalonians 2:8, 9. The deception upon those who worship the beast will be so intense and near perfect, that

their praises to the beast actually reflect praises that the *faithful saints* sing in reverence and adoration to God (see Psalm 113:1-5, Micah 7:18 and Matthew 24:24). The probing question in verse 4, "Who is able to make war with him?" spoken by those under the strong delusion, is fitting, given the timeless papal boast of equality with God.

Verse 8 speaks of a solemn truth for **our time** that must not be taken lightly! The Lord declares that all who worship according to this false system in the *Last Days* will not have their names written in the **Book of Life** belonging to Jesus Christ. This fact is most disturbing in that Satan has devised a worldwide system that masquerades Christianity, but in essence will lead its direct followers, and others who uphold its doctrines to eternal destruction. In verse 9, God gives counsel to all who dwell upon the earth to heed His grave revelations and warnings regarding this global system:

***"If any man have an ear, let him hear."***

God has made known His counsels, past, present, and future, through the prophetic writings in the Bible. Men's greatest loss would be to lose the gift of **eternal life**, freely given to all by the One who loves them the most. Satan's masterpiece in the papal system and its doctrines are scourges that have been, and will soon again be a test of all men's faith, whether they stand for God and the Bible's truths, or follow manmade creeds and traditions. Let us heed these counsels, prove all things, and take our stand on the side of Christ!

For additional Bible studies or if you have questions, please write or contact: *Life More Abundant*  
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# The Beast from the Sea: Past & Future

Revelation Chapter 13 – Part 2  
[Based on verses 2-10]



Lesson 29