



Life More Abundant Bible Study

Bible Prophecy: Revelation Chapter 13A

Revelation 13 resumes the saga of the relentless attack of Satan upon Jesus' bride, the Church, through the introduction of two of his accomplices: the beast from the sea and the beast from the earth. The dragon, which we have learned is a symbol for Satan as he through time works through various media, the beast from the sea, and the beast from the earth form a counterfeit trinity; three distinct individuals having a common purpose working together as one. We will more clearly understand the workings of the beast from the earth in union with the dragon and beast from the sea in a subsequent lesson, but here we will focus on the beast from the sea. Because of the detail involved, and the many ideas presented in the thirteenth chapter of the Revelation, the chapter will be divided into several studies.

As we begin our study of Revelation 13, two principles when studying bible prophecy become very relevant in our discourse. Let us review these two principles as we begin our study.

Repeat & Enlarge: Often, when God would have His people understand a critical truth, the truth will be repeated, often utilizing differing imagery or motifs, yet drawing the reader's attention to a central theme. With each successive repetition of the theme, additional details are incorporated that bring clarity, and expand the understanding of the overall message.

Imagery & Metaphors: The bible often utilizes symbols, imagery and metaphors to describe or represent something else. It is important that the symbols, imagery and metaphors be interpreted by the bible alone, utilizing two detailed methods of bible exposition given by the bible:

1. The bible should be searched from cover-to-cover to gain understanding to a topic, thought or idea: *"line-by-line, precept-by-precept, here a little, there a little"* – Isaiah 28:9-13:
2. Unless explicitly stated by a verse, a conclusion should only be drawn if two or more verses confirm or expound upon a topic, thought, or idea: *"by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established"* – 2 Corinthians 13:1

Utilizing these technique, and through the guidance of His Holy Spirit, God promises to give wisdom, knowledge and understanding to all who diligently seek Him (James 1:5-8; Hebrews 11:6, Jeremiah 29:11-13; Psalm 27:8)

Revelation 13 opens with a vivid description of a beast rising from the sea.

V1, 2: “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

Have we seen this beast before? Consider the following verses:

1. Daniel 7:3-7
2. Rev 12:3-4

It is noted that the beast from the sea in Revelation 13 is an amalgamation of the four beasts from the sea in Daniel chapter 7 and is said to gain three things from the red dragon of Revelation 12. Here the bible employs the two literary techniques mentioned above, Repeat & Enlarge and Imagery & Metaphors, to reveal a critical truth, drawing our attention to this beast. God, the One who knows the end from the beginning, and is faithful and true to His word has made sure that those who have ears to hear would hear (Matthew 12:15) and understand this message.

As we review the bible verses individually, let us seek to identify the beast from the sea:

V1: “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.”

1. A “beast” in bible prophecy represents a kingdom, a nation, or a political power. (Daniel 7:23)
2. A “sea” in bible prophecy represents a multitude. (Daniel 7:3; Rev 19:6; Isaiah 17:12-13, 60:5; Ecclesiastes 11:1) When a beast rises from the sea, it represents a power arising in the midst of a densely populated area. (Revelation 17:15)
3. Both a “head” and a “horn” in bible prophecy represent a king, or a ruler over a nation. (Daniel 7:24)
4. A “crown” represents a kingdom or government ruled by a monarch
5. “Blasphemy”, according to the bible is when “a man maketh thyself God (John 10:33)”. Also read Mark 2:5-11.

In order for bible prophecy to be deemed credible and trust worthy, it must be confirmable by world history. As we review verse two of the chapter, consider the following facts found in the description of the beast from the sea that correlate to previously reviewed world history:

V2: “And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a

bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

1. The “leopard” in bible prophecy represented the kingdom of Greece (for more detail see studies Daniel Chapter 2 and Daniel 7A). Alexander the Great, in his pomp and self-glorification, ordered all Greek citizens to worship him as god. Therefore, the bible is revealing that the beast from the sea also will seek to be worshipped as a god.
2. The “bear” in bible prophecy represented the kingdom of Medo-Persia (for more detail see studies Daniel Chapter 2 and Daniel 7A). The Medo-Persian Empire had iron clad governmental policies that were considered infallible; once a law was enacted it could not be revoked. Therefore, the bible is revealing that this beast would bear this principle in its governance.
3. The “lion” in bible prophecy represented the kingdom of Babylon (for more detail see studies Daniel Chapter 2 and Daniel 7A). The kingdom of Babylon was one of the wealthiest and most beautiful kingdoms, whose workings were considered great wonders of the world. The kings of Babylon also claimed worship as gods and were the oppressors of God’s people. Bible prophecy often refers to Babylon in the feminine tense (“she/her”) (Rev 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:10). Recall that in bible prophecy a “woman” represents a church (Jeremiah 6:2, 31:32; Isaiah 51:16, 54:5, 62:5; Hosea 2:16-20). Therefore, by implication, the bible reveals that this beast would not just exhibit political power, but also religious power as a church.
4. Daniel chapter 7 describes the fourth beast as being “dreadful & terrible”, with ten horns, among which comes up a “little horn”, that uproots three of the original ten horns (Daniel 7:7-8). Based on what the Bible has shown us, the fourth beast is that of pagan Rome, a kingdom that was never conquered but rather divided into ten divisions as noted by the horns. Pagan Rome’s cruel, iron fisted governance which oppressed the people of God and also crucified Jesus Christ would be a characteristic of this beast power. Pagan Rome historically was known for its glorification of paganism through its amassing of worldwide deities. Similarly, this beast would glorify paganism through its works and teachings from its heads.
5. The “dragon” in bible prophecy is a symbol of the devil himself (Rev 12:3-4, 9), often working through a medium to persecute the people of God. In the chronology of the rise and fall of nations and by comparison of details given in Revelation 12, the dragon power is representative of Satan working through Pagan Rome as his medium. The dragon is said to yield its power, seat, and authority to the “beast from the sea”, indicating a change in governing authority in time from Pagan Rome to the beast from the sea.

Are the “beast from the sea” in Revelation 13 and the “little horn” of Daniel 7 the same power? Consider the following verses before drawing your conclusion:

Daniel The Little Horn	Revelation Beast from the Sea	Facts
7:8	13:18	Both have characteristics of men and not of God.
7:25	13:7	Both make war and wear out the saints of God.
7:25	13:6	Both speak blasphemous words against God.
7:8	13:2	Both appear on the scene during the time of the 10 divisions of the Roman Empire.
7:20, 24	13:1	Both detail the destruction of three kings of the divided Roman Empire, leaving seven
7:25	13:5	Both rule for 1260 years: “the little horn”- a time, times, and dividing of times; “the beast from the sea”- forty and two months.

Clearly, the “beast from the sea” and the “little horn” are the exact same power. All of the symbols of Revelation 13:1, 2 when combined align to represent the power of **Papal Rome**. God wants to make sure that there’s no mistaking the identity of this power!

Revelation 13:3 speaks of the beast from the sea receiving a deadly wound on “... one of his heads as it were wounded to death...” further Revelation 13:10 depicts the beast from the sea being led “into captivity”. Both of these prophecies have their fulfillment in a single event in world history:

On February 10, 1798, France, under the rule of Napoleon, commanded his General Berthier to march upon Rome, demanding the renunciation of Pope Pius VI’s temporal authority. Pope Pius VI refused and was taken to France as a prisoner; and died in exile on August 29, 1799. This event is known historically as the *Papal Captivity of 1798* and it abolished (inflicted a deadly wound) the papacy’s civil and political power over the world. However, the bible in Revelation 13:5 concludes that the deadly wound would in time “be healed”, or in other words a resurrection would occur. We will see in future lessons the turn of events that bring about the healing of the deadly wound upon beast from the sea.

Summary:

To God alone be the glory! What a wonderful, merciful, and awesome God we serve! He never lies and truly knows the end from the beginning! The Apostle John, around

95AD, had no idea that more than a thousand years after penning these events, a French general would take captive a Roman Pope in 1798, causing a deadly wound to this sinister power. God truly is awesome!

For a better understanding of prophetic imagery, terms and symbols used in this bible study, refer to the study, [Interpreting Bible Prophecy](#), also located on the Life More Abundant Bible Study website.