

**Revelation Chapter 13**  
**The Beast from the Sea**  
**Bible Study Notes**

*'Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth... The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth...'*

**Daniel 7:17,23**

We have previously studied the first twelve chapters of the Book of Revelation up until this point, and what we have noticed is that there is a particular timeline of events being portrayed thus far.

When we study chapters 1-10, we see the entire historical arc of the Book, portraying to us for the most part, the entire history of the early & middle-aged Church. When we progress to chapter 11, we get an intermediary chapter around the period of the fifth trumpet that shows us Satan's attack on the Word of God during the reign of the papacy followed by chapter 12, which gives us a summary of the entire conflict between Christ and Satan and how it affects God's faithful followers until the end of time.

This then brings us to the start of the eschatological [*end time events*] arc of the Book of Revelation, that is, the layout or blueprint for the end time events that will affect God's end time Church, *Laodicea* [**Revelation 3:14-22**]. This runs from Chapter 13-22 where the Book ends.

Therefore, with that backdrop, I will assume that you have gone through all of the study notes from Chapters 1-12 [*it is vitally important that you do*], so that you are up to speed with the events thus far and we will now begin studying the end time half of Revelation.

We must bear in mind that the Book of Revelation more so than any other Scripture in the Bible cannot be read on its own; we must always compare Scripture with Scripture, to get a full understanding of the text. This is more so important in the Book of Revelation because many of what we read in that particular Book, find its origin throughout the Old Testament. For example, we read of the '*mark of the beast*' in Revelation 13, however, the portrayal of beasts and the description of what a beast is, is first given throughout the Book of Daniel. Therefore, in order to understand what is the '*mark*', one must first understand what is a '*beast*'.

Secondly, we read of a woman and a harlot in Revelation 12 & 17 respectively, but what do these represent? As we are dealing with symbols throughout the Book of Revelation, we must then know what these symbols mean and by careful study of the Old Testament Scriptures in Jeremiah, Isaiah & Hosea for example, we see what a woman and a harlot represent.

Therefore, line must be upon line & precept upon precept, here a little and there a little [**Isaiah 28:10**]. Comparison of the Scriptures is vitally important for the understanding of Scripture, especially Revelation.

**vs. 1.**

*"Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw **a beast rising up out of the sea**, having **seven heads** and **ten horns**, and on his horns **ten crowns**, and on his heads **a blasphemous name**."*

Immediately verse one points us back to the 'great fiery red dragon' of **Revelation 12:3**, but not only that, it also directs us to **Daniel 7** where we see the same sort of description being given by Daniel.

A **beast** represents a kingdom, government or political power.

*"Thus, he said: 'The fourth **beast** shall be **a fourth kingdom on earth**, which shall be different from all other kingdoms and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.'" **Daniel 7:23***

*'Those great **beasts**, which are four, are four **kings** which arise out of the earth...' **Daniel 7:17***

The **sea**, synonymous with water represents multitudes of peoples and nations. That is, a densely populated area.

*Then he said to me, "The **waters** which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues." **Revelation 17:15, Daniel 7:3, Isaiah 17:12,13***

*'Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the **four winds** [strife & war, see Revelation 7] of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And **four great beasts** came up **from the sea**, each different from the other.' **Daniel 7:2,3***

The number **seven** is usually synonymous with completeness. For e.g. The 7 days of the week, the sevenfold Spirit of God, the seven Churches in Revelation, seven trumpets, seven seals, seven stars, seven Biblical feasts and more. See: [**Gen. chapters 1&2, Rev. 4:5; Zech. 4:10; Isa. 11:2; Rev. chapters 2&3; Rev. chapters 8&9; Rev. chapters 6&8; Rev. 1:12; Lev. 23.**]

A **head** represents a major power or ruler of some sort.

*"Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven **heads** are seven **mountains** [kingdoms] on which the woman sits. There are also seven **kings**" **Revelation 17:9-10***

*'And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having **seven heads** and **ten horns**, and seven **crowns** on his **heads**.' **Revelation 12:3***

A **horn** represents a king or kingdom. There cannot be a king without a kingdom or vice versa.

*"The **ten horns** are **ten kings** who shall arise from this kingdom, and another shall rise after them: He shall be different from the first ones and shall subdue three kings." **Daniel 7:24**. See also: **Daniel 8:21-22***

Name in the Bible is representative of a literal name but can also mean **character or personality**. Here the same Greek word 'ONAMA' [**character**] is used in the original text of the New Testament. (Old Testament written in Hebrew & Aramaic, New Testament written in Greek)

*"Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name [ONAMA] written on their foreheads"* **Revelation 14:1**

*'on his heads a blasphemous name [ONAMA]'* **Revelation 13:1**

So, in summary, John is seeing a great kingdom which arises out of a densely populated area. This beast is given the same description of the **great red dragon** of Revelation 12, whom we know to be the devil [**Revelation 12:3,9**]. What this shows us is that this same kingdom is being used by satan to execute his will here upon earth. This kingdom has seven heads just like the dragon and with seven being the number of totality and completeness, so this great kingdom which John sees is the full and complete character of satan here represented on earth. It also has seven crowns, symbolizing that this is a ruling power, consistent with how satan works all throughout the Old & New Testament. He uses the kings and rulers and people of influence of the world to execute his will. Pharaoh of Egypt, Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Ahab, Pontius Pilate, The Pope of Rome, just to name a few. It is a blasphemous power, a persecuting power as we shall soon see and it will cause all to worship it, taking the place of God on earth.

See the Biblical definition for blasphemy in **Matt. 9:2-3, Matt. 26:63-65**.

**vs. 2.**

*"Now **the beast** which I saw **was like a leopard**, his **feet were like the feet of a bear**, and **his mouth like the mouth of a lion**. The **dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority**."*

This beast (*blasphemous kingdom*) which John sees in his vision is partly like a **leopard**, a **bear**, and a **lion**. It also received its power to rule and to execute its authority from the **dragon**.

The description of the leopard, bear, lion and the 'beast without description' are all given in **Daniel 7:2-8** and **Daniel 7:15-27**. We can also compare those verses with **Daniel 2:24-45**. As we have noticed from **Daniel 7:23**, that a beast represents a kingdom, then the other beasts here mentioned (lion, bear & leopard) would also be representative of other kingdoms as well [This is covered in-depth on my study on Daniel 2 & 7].

**So, the beast (kingdom) which John is seeing in his vision comprises of elements of the leopard beast [Greece], lion beast [Babylon] and the bear-like beast [Medo-Persia]. It was a 'conglomerate' of them all, comprising characteristics of all of those previous kingdoms.**

*"Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth"* **Dan.7:17**

Notice that both the Prophet Daniel and the Apostle John are both having the same vision. Daniel first sees a lion, then a bear, then a leopard and finally the fourth beast as he was looking from his time down to the latter days. Whereas John sees the fourth beast, then the leopard, then bear and finally the lion as he was looking from his time back into the past.

*In my study notes on Daniel Chapters 2 & 7, I go into detail on the 4 beasts mentioned by Daniel and who they represent from Scripture. Those notes are a must read to fully understand where we are going in Revelation 13.*

The **dragon** is represented by satan in the primary sense but secondarily, the dragon represents the kings and rulers of the earth which satan uses to carry out his plans, that is, his agency or affiliates.

*"So, the **great dragon** was cast out, that **serpent** of old, **called the devil and satan**, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." **Rev. 12:9***

*"In that day the LORD with His severe sword, great and strong, will punish Leviathan the fleeing **serpent**, leviathan that twisted **serpent** and He will slay the reptile that is in the sea." **Isa.27:1***

*"Speak, and say, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, **Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon** that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, my river is mine own, and I have made it for myself." **Ezek. 29:3** Notice here that the king of Egypt is described also as a dragon.*

*"Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon hath devoured me, he hath crushed me, he hath made me an empty vessel, he hath swallowed me up like a dragon..." **Jer. 51:34** Notice here that the King of Babylon is also compared to a dragon.*

By comparing the scriptures, we get a much better understanding of the Word.

**vs. 3.**

*"And I saw **one of his heads** as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast."*

This seven-headed beast had a head which appeared as if it had been **fatally wounded** at some point in history, but the **wound was healed**. As a result of this mortal wound being healed, **the entire world wondered (followed) after the beast (kingdom) and its doctrines**. It is important to note that all the heads of the dragon do not reign at the same time. They represent 7 [seven] different kingdoms which Satan uses to persecute God's people throughout the course of world history, they also represent the complete fulfilment of Satan's wrath against the saints of God. Therefore, what we notice is that one of these 'heads' which satan uses, The Roman Catholic Papacy, receives a wound in which it is no longer able to execute its civil power, however, that wound will be healed and the Papacy shall yet again rule the nations of the world as it did in the dark ages and persecute all those who refuse to keep their pagan beliefs, i.e., the faithful believers of God, His elect.

This Kingdom at some point in time would have lost its sway and influence upon the world, but a time came where John saw this beast regaining its power and influence upon the entire world thus causing all those who were not faithful to Christ to wonder and be amazed at this kingdom. All those whose names were not written in the Lamb's book of life; all those who receive the mark of this beast.

*"...and those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is." **Revelation 17:8***

This kingdom here represents the Roman Catholic Papacy as we have covered in many of our previous studies. It ruled for 1,260 prophetic days/literal years [*also called forty-two months, time, times and a dividing of time or time, times and half a time*].

We see this fulfilment of prophecy from the year **538AD to 1798AD**, exactly 1,260 literal years. It was at the end of this period, firstly by the nation of France under Napoleon and then by the remaining European powers, that the

state removed their support to the Papacy, thus the Roman Catholic papacy lost its power to rule over the nations of Europe as a state power, thereby receiving its mortal wound.

However, we are told by John that this mortal wound will be healed, symbolising that the Papacy shall yet again receive power from the governments of the world, and it shall again rule in the days shortly before the Second Coming of Jesus, persecuting the faithful saints of God until that time.

*'The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. **These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast'** Revelation 17:12*

**vs. 4.**

*"So, **they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast**, saying, who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"*

John in his vision sees the inhabitants of the world amazed and wondering after this beast, The Papacy. So much so that they as a result end up worshipping satan for he is the one who gave his power, seat and great authority to it. Because the Papacy has so blinded the inhabitants of the world and has committed adultery with the leaders of the world, they all are of the opinion that this kingdom shall stand forever, that no other nation could even rival against it.

*"Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with **whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.**"*

**Revelation 17:1-2**

The kings of the earth (*world leaders and governments*) have pledged their allegiance to this kingdom and the inhabitants have been made drunk off of her **wine**, that is off of her **teachings, doctrines & dogmas**.

*"And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved. And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better.'" **Luke 5:37-39***

Jesus is the *True Vine*, **John 15:1**, and the fruit of the vine is the grape, therefore the unfermented juice of the grape would represent Jesus' teaching and doctrine for that juice comes from Him, and He is the True Vine. However, the fermented juice of the grape which makes the nations and the kings of the earth drunk, represents the false teachings and doctrines of the beast.

**vs. 5.**

*And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for **forty-two months.***

Here we see the repetition of blasphemy as given in **vs.1**. This kingdom is a blasphemous kingdom; it professes to take the place of God on earth, and it claims to have the power to forgive sins, as that is the biblical definition of blasphemy. See: **Matthew 9:2-3, Matthew 26:63-65**

This kingdom also speaks 'great things', it has a world-wide presence, when it speaks it attracts the attention of everyone. All listen when this beast opens its mouth. Kind of reminds me of when ever the Pope speaks, that the whole world is amazed.

The beast was given authority to rule for '**42 months.**' This power will reign for a specified amount of time before it received its mortal wound, see **vs.3**. Sometime after receiving this wound, that is, after this kingdom falls, its wound shall be healed, and it shall reign yet again upon the earth until Jesus comes. It shall rule with all the power and authority that it was given by the dragon.

*"I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favour of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom."* **Dan.7:21-22**

By comparing scripture with scripture, we notice that **in bible prophecy** and not in literal terms a prophetic day represents a literal year. This was the view held by the Reformers (*those men of God who paved the way for the Protestant Churches we see today: Pentecost, Methodist, Baptist, Adventist, Calvinist, etc.*)

*"According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, **forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years...**"* **Numbers 4:34**

*"For I have laid on you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days; so, you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. **I have laid on you a day for each year.**"* **Ezekiel 4:5-6**

*"**Seventy weeks** are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy."* **Daniel 9:24**

Now that we have this understanding of what a day in prophecy represents this will help us to understand the meaning of the term *42 months* in **vs.5**. Explanation below.

#### **42 Months:**

*"He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand, for **a time and times and half a time.**"* **Daniel 7:25**

A time represents a year, times represents two years, and a dividing of time represents half of a year. See: **Daniel 4:16, 4:25, Revelation 12:6,14**



*"But leave out the court, which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles [The Papacy and its allies]. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for **forty-two months**. And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy **one thousand two hundred and sixty days**, clothed in sackcloth."* **Revelation 11:1-2**

*"Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there **one thousand two hundred and sixty days**.... Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a **time and times and half a time**, from the presence of the serpent."* **Revelation 12:6,12**

Notice the repetition of the periods, **42 months, time, times and dividing of time, time, times and half a time** and **1,260 days**.

In the Hebrew calendar a month consisted of 30 days as they used and still use a lunar calendar as opposed to the present-day solar calendar, therefore we must bear this into consideration when studying this prophecy.

If 1 day in prophecy represents 1 literal year, **Numbers 14:34, Ezekiel 4:5-6**, then:

1. **42 months**= 42 x 30 days= **1260 days**
2. Time, Times and dividing of times= **3 ½ years**= 3 ½ years x 12 months = 42 months= 1,260 days.

We can see that all three of these time prophecies all point to the same event, just by allowing the Bible to be its own interpreter.

*42 months=Time, Times and a dividing of Time=3 ½ years=1260 days*

Therefore, taking a prophetic day to represent a literal year, 1,260 prophetic days would represent literal 1,260 years.

This beast power which John sees will reign upon the earth, *before it received its mortal wound*, for 1,260 years. This points directly to one power within history without a doubt and that is the Roman Catholic Papacy, which ruled the nations of Europe after the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 AD. It was in 538 AD until 1798 AD that the Papacy ruled and there was spiritual darkness across all of Europe.

Apostate Christianity was enforced upon the people, access to the Bible in the common tongue was prohibited and all those who chose to worship God according to the dictates of their conscience and teach and preach Bible truth were vastly persecuted and martyred for their faith. It is estimated that during the reign of the papacy, that they, using the nations of Europe, killed more than 50 million faithful Christians. This is all public knowledge and is widely documented by history.

The Papacy has a dark past and prophecy shows us that they shall yet again rule, when the kings and rulers of the earth shall again give their power over to the beast.

*'Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots?'* **Jeremiah 13:11**

The Papacy cannot change, do not be fooled by their supposed meekness, prophecy cannot lie, God's Word will not return unto Him void. Observe the events in the world today, observe how all the nations are bowing to the pope and elevating his status as a moral world leader. The wound of the beast is soon to be healed, the papacy is soon to bear its iron fist upon God's faithful elect in these last days, *'it shall be a time of trouble such as never was.'*

**vs. 6.**

*"Then he opened his mouth in **blasphemy against God**, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven."*

This beast power persists in its blasphemy against God. It professes that it has the power to forgive sins, it professes that it takes the place of God and sets itself up even proclaiming to be God. Despite all of this, the nations are blinded and persist in wondering and following after this beast.

*"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." **2<sup>nd</sup> Thess. 2:3-4***

*'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.**'*  
**Daniel 7:25**

**vs. 7.**

*"It was granted to him **to make war with the saints and to overcome them**. And **authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.**"*

This Kingdom will have authority to rule over all the earth, it sits upon many waters, committing adultery with the kings of the world. i.e., the world leaders. **Revelation 17:1,15**

It will be a persecuting power as well, forcing its will upon all. It will make war against God's faithful people and will overcome them for a time. However, the saints shall prevail at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ.

*"When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed." **Revelation 6:9-11***

*"He shall speak great words against the Most High, **shall persecute the saints of the Most High** and shall intend to change times and law. **Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.**"*

**Daniel 7:25**

*"I was watching; and the same horn **was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came**, and a judgment was made in favour of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom." **Daniel 7:21-22***

**vs. 8.**



*"All who dwell on the earth **will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**"*

**The Bible is clear, the entire world will follow and wonder after the Beast;** all those whose names have not been written in the Lamb's Book of Life. They will worship the dragon, *"that old serpent called the devil & satan"* and receive of his mark. Therefore, they shall drink the wine of God's fury, which will be poured out full strength into the cup of His wrath. See: **Revelation 14:9-10**

Because they have rejected the truth when it was brought to them to *"come out of Babylon"*, **Revelation 18:4**, God shall allow them to be deceived and thus be lost eternally.

*"And for this reason, God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."* **2nd Thess. 2:11-12**

*"Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!... "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues."* **Rev. 18:2,4**

Here Babylon represents that form of Apostate Christianity with the Papacy at its head, which shall rule over all the nations of the world. God is calling all of His children out of the apostate Christianity, back to the pure Bible based religion that we see of in the days of the early Church of the Apostles. If we reject this call, we shall continue in the sins of Babylon and shall receive of the wrath of God.

We must all scrutinise the Churches we go to and the leaders we allow to teach us. Is what they are teaching Biblical, can it be found in the Holy Scriptures or is it just tradition. We all have a responsibility as Christians to know the truth as it is found in the Word of God. Many of God's professed people will be deceived in these last days for they know not the truth.

*'Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.**'* **John 17:17**

*'I am the way, **the truth**, and the life...'* **John 14:6**

*'And that, knowing the time, that **now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now, is our salvation nearer than when we believed.**'* **Romans 13:11**

**vs. 9.**

*"If anyone has an ear, let him hear."*

We are to heed the voice of God when the truth is made plain to us. **Revelation 1:3** tells us that a blessing is given to those who reads aloud (*proclaims*) and takes to heart the message given in the Book of Revelation for the time is near. Jesus is very near, even at the door.

*"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."* **Revelation 3:22**

**vs. 10.**

*"He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."*

This verse points directly to the wounding of the beast as mentioned in **vs. 3**. For at the time of this wounding, which we see in history (*year 1798*), this Kingdom was taken into captivity and subsequently it fell after that.

Pope Pius 6<sup>th</sup> in 1798, unwilling to renounce his temporal power to General Berthier of the French Army under Napoleon Bonaparte, was thus taken into captivity as a prisoner of war. He was taken to France and there died eighteen months later. Thus, fulfilling the prophecy of *'he who leads into captivity shall go into captivity.'*

It was at this point that the Nation of France first dealt the sword of the state to the papacy and following this, the other nations of Europe followed suit, thus the Papacy received its mortal wound and was thus *'killed by the sword'*. Yes, the Roman Catholic Church has endured since then, but it has never had the same authority and power and has not ruled as a state power since 1798, thus fulfilling the prophecy that *'he who kills by the sword must be killed by the sword.'* It is that sword of the state here referred to not a literal sword. The Papacy used the nations of Europe [the state/sword] to execute its will and thus it had to be wounded by the same nations which it once used [the sword]. However, this mortal wound shall be healed.

*'For he [the powers of the state] is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he, beareth not **the sword** [civil punishment] in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.'* **Romans 13:4**

God's saints are called to be patient and long suffering. Throughout this Christian walk, until our last day, we are called to exercise immense patience & endurance, holding on until the very end. We are to keep God's commandments because we love him **John 14:15**, we are to have the faith of Jesus, trusting in Him with all our heart and leaning not on our own understanding **Proverbs 3:5-6**.

**We are to love the Lord God Jesus even if it means losing our lives for the cause. Death before dishonour.**

*And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

**Revelation 6:15-17**