

# The Book Of Revelation

## Study 65

*Revelation 13:1-2 (NKJV)*

<sup>1</sup> *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.*

<sup>2</sup> *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.*

We have learned that Satan's time is short when these things are happening. He has been confined to earth and thrown down from heaven. He is furious and will seek to destroy all that would represent God, and that means His people both Jews and Gentiles who know the Lord and worship Him.

As *chapter 13* begins we will see that it reveals seven features of the ultimate dictator, Anti-Christ.

Those features are as follows;

**His Ancestry**

**His Authority**

**His Acclaim**

**His Adoration,**

**His Arrogance,**

**His Activity,**

**His Admirers**

So let's begin by reading verse 1

### HIS ANCESTRY

*Revelation 13:1 (NKJV)*

<sup>1</sup> *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.*

This first sentence in this chapter actually belongs as the last sentence of Chapter 12, since it concludes the account of **the dragon** (Satan [12:9]) and his war against God and His people.

While some Greek manuscripts read "I stood," the older and more reliable ones read "he stood." In the 1994 and 1995 texts of the New American Standard Bible, the translators inserted the phrase **the dragon** in place of, "he" since the dragon is the antecedent of the verb translated "he stood."

The imagery of the **sand of the seashore** depicts the nations of the world;

*Revelation 20:8 (NKJV)*

<sup>8</sup> *and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.*

In John's vision, Satan takes his place dominantly in their midst as if they were his rightful possession. But in reality, he is the usurper who seeks the world's worship and adoration.

As John's vision unfolded, **the dragon** summoned the Anti-Christ, described as **a beast coming up out of the sea.**

*Therion* (beast) is also used to describe Anti-Christ in *Chapter 11:7*.

It does not refer to a domesticated animal, but to a wild, savage, vicious monster, thus describing Anti-Christ as a ferocious and rapacious personality.

The **beast** here must be understood as representing both a kingdom and a person

The **beast** must represent a kingdom because of the complex description of him in the latter half of verse 1. Yet the **beast** must also represent a person, since he is always described with personal pronouns, such as His, him, he,

The Scripture views the final world empire as inseparable from its ruler, much as Hitler is inseparably linked to the Third Reich.

There has been much discussion about what the **sea** symbolizes. Some argue, based on passages in *Isaiah 17 & 57*, and in *Revelation 17*, that it refers to the Gentile nations.

But since *chapter 17:7 & 8* state that the **beast** comes up out of the abyss, it is best to equate the **sea** with the abyss.

That interpretation is in harmony with the Old Testament, which also uses the metaphor of the sea to picture the realm of satanic activity.

*Isaiah 27:1 (NKJV)*

*<sup>1</sup> 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.*

We know that some of the demons are currently incarcerated in the abyss

*Revelation 9:1-11 (NKJV)*

*<sup>1</sup> Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.*

*<sup>2</sup> And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.*

*<sup>3</sup> Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.*

*<sup>4</sup> They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.*

*<sup>5</sup> And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.*

*<sup>6</sup> In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. <sup>7</sup> The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.*

*<sup>8</sup> They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.*

*<sup>9</sup> And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle.*

*<sup>10</sup> They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.*

*<sup>11</sup> And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.*

*Luke 8:26-31 (NKJV)*

<sup>26</sup> *Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee.*

<sup>27</sup> *And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs.*

<sup>28</sup> *When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!"*

<sup>29</sup> *For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.*

<sup>30</sup> *Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him.*

<sup>31</sup> *And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.*

And Satan will be imprisoned there during the millennial kingdom

*Revelation 20:1-3 (NKJV)*

<sup>1</sup> *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*

<sup>2</sup> *He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;*

<sup>3</sup> *and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.*

The Anti-Christ will be a man;

*2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NKJV)*

<sup>3</sup> *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,*

<sup>4</sup> *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.*

At some point this man will be indwelt by a powerful demon from the abyss.

This demon possessed man will be a gifted orator, and intellectual genius, possess great charm and charisma, and have immense leadership power.

Added to those natural qualities will be the hellish power of Satan.

The result will be a person of superhuman power, vast intelligence, and consummate wickedness

While all unbelievers are children of Satan;

*John 8:44 (NKJV)*

<sup>44</sup> *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

No one in human history will be more completely the devil's child than the Anti-Christ.

His "family likeness" to Satan becomes strikingly apparent from John's description of him as **having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems.**

**This description is that of Satan found in the following verses;**

*Revelation 12:3 (NKJV)*

<sup>3</sup> *And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.*

The description of Anti-Christ emphasizes the importance of the **ten horns** by mentioning them first and associating the **diadems** with them instead of the heads.

**Horns** in scripture symbolize strength and power, both for attack and defense

*1 Samuel 2:1 (NKJV)*

<sup>1</sup> *And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the Lord; My horn is exalted in the Lord. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation.*

*1 Samuel 2:10*

<sup>10</sup> *The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken in pieces; From heaven He will thunder against them. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to His king, And exalt the horn of His anointed."*

*2 Samuel 22:3 (NKJV)*

<sup>3</sup> *The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence.*

*Psalms 18:2 (NKJV)*

<sup>2</sup> *The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

And there are many more.

In this passage they represent the great power of the kings who will rule under the Anti-Christ's absolute authority.

**Ten**, fits the imagery of the fourth beast in Daniel

*Daniel 7:7 (NKJV)*

<sup>7</sup> *After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.*

*Daniel 7:24 (NKJV)*

<sup>24</sup> *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.*

It is a symbolic number representing all the world's political and military might.

Anti-Christ will arise from among these ten,

*Daniel 7:16-24 (NKJV)*

<sup>16</sup> *I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:*

<sup>17</sup> *'Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth.*

<sup>18</sup> *But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.'*

<sup>19</sup> *Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet;*

<sup>20</sup> *and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.*

<sup>21</sup> *I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,*

<sup>22</sup> *until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.*

<sup>23</sup> *"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.*

<sup>24</sup> *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.*

He will not only rule these ten kingdoms but all the world.

*Daniel 7:23 (NKJV)*

<sup>23</sup> *"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.*

Unlike the **seven heads** which represent successive world empires, all of the rulers symbolized by the **ten horns** will rule at the same time

*Revelation 17:12 (NKJV)*

<sup>12</sup> *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.*

Daniel described this final coalition, headed by Anti-Christ, in the following passage;

*Daniel 2:41-44 (NKJV)*

<sup>41</sup> *Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.*

<sup>42</sup> *And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.*

<sup>43</sup> *As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.*

<sup>44</sup> *And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.*

The final world empire will be in some sense a revival of the Roman Empire, but will far exceed it both in power and extent.

It will be much more than a European confederacy; it will cover the entire world.

Ultimately, Anti-Christ's empire will be crushed by Christ ("the stone that was cut out without hands") when He comes to establish His earthly kingdom.

In addition to his ten horns, the beast is described by John as having **seven heads**.

As will be seen in the discussion of Revelation 17 later in this study, those seven heads represent seven successive world empires;

Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and Antichrist's final world kingdom.

The **ten diadems** (royal crowns) indicate the horn's regal authority and victorious power. John also noted that on the beast's **heads were blasphemous names**.

Like many of the Roman Emperors and other monarchs before them, these rulers will blasphemously arrogate divine names and titles to themselves that dishonor the true and living God.

They will follow the pattern of their master, Anti-Christ, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God

*2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NKJV)*

*<sup>3</sup> 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,*

*<sup>4</sup> 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.*