

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Revelation Chapter 13

Bible Study Notes on The Two Beasts

Revelation Chapter 13

What is the nature of Chapter 13?

- Chapter 13 is a parenthetical chapter – a break from the narrative of the tribulation, it is an overview, like Chapter 12
 - Chapter 13 focuses key characters whose head is the dragon (Satan) and their activities in the tribulation period
 - There is a particular focus on the second half of the tribulation – the part named by Yeshua as the ‘great tribulation’ – when Satan and his angels have been cast to the earth and the anti-Christ spirit is dominant on the earth

Who are the Key Characters in Chapter 13?

- The ‘Seed of the Serpent’ (*Genesis 3: 15*)
 - The Dragon – Satan (see Chapter 12)) A
 - The Beast from the Sea – the Coming World Leader) Satanic
 - The Beast from the Earth – the False Prophet) Trinity
 - They are a false Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- The Dragon
 - Satan
 - The ‘serpent of old’ – see Chapter 12
 - It is he from whom the two beasts derive their power
- The Beast from the Sea
 - The Coming World Leader
 - A false messiah
 - Often called ‘the Antichrist’
- The Beast from the Earth
 - The False Prophet
 - Exercises the authority of the Beast from the Sea
 - Causes earth dwellers to worship the Beast from the Sea

Ch 13 Vs 1 – 10 The Beast from the Sea

His Identity and Authority Verses 1 – 4

Where is John? Verse 1

- By the Sea
 - Yet again John is being transported by the Lord to witness key events – he is being given a ringside seat / the front stalls

- Most manuscripts read "And he stood" ... possibly referring to the dragon, or Satan from Chapter 12 (as in ASV, LSB, NIV, RV)
 - The Legacy Standard Bible translates *verse 1* as “And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea...”
 - He (the dragon) takes a position in the midst of the nations of his world, as represented by ‘the sand of the sea’
- Other manuscripts read “I stood on the sand of the sea” indicating it is John who is stood on the seashore (as in AMPC, CJB, Darby, KJV, LITV, NKJV, YLT)
 - Clearly there is a presence of the dragon in some way (verse 2) – but it may be it is indeed John stood on the seashore
- But it is plainly John who is the witness to all that this chapter tells us – he sees it with his own eyes “and (then) I saw...” (verse 1)

Who does John See and what is the Significance of his Origin? Verse 1

- A Beast (Greek: *thērion*) – a beast of prey, a wild beast - which describes a vicious, killing animal...as distinct from the four ‘beasts (‘living creatures’) in *Revelation chapters 4 & 6* (Greek: *zoon*)
- Arising out of the Sea
 - Scripture uses ‘the sea’ as an idiom for the nations (in contrast to the Jews) - see *Isaiah 17: 12, 57: 20-21; Jeremiah 6: 23; Revelation 17: 15*
 - Beasts and the Sea are linked in Daniel (see *Daniel 7: 2-3*) – the four beasts that Daniel saw were Gentile empires
 - Each of these empires treated people in a beastly and harsh manner, ruling brutally
 - In this context, the term represents both a person (Antichrist) and his system (the world)
 - The final satanic world empire will be inseparable from the demonic man who leads it
 - Because this beast arises out of the sea (the nations) – many commentators therefore say that this ‘beast’ is a Gentile

See Supplementary Note 35: ‘The Ethnicity of the Antichrist’

What does John first notice about this Beast and what is the Significance? Verse 1

- The Beast has Seven Heads and Ten Horns with Ten Crowns
 - Like the Red Dragon (*Revelation 12: 3*)
 - This Beast gets his power from the Dragon (*verse 2*)
 - The seven heads may represent successive world empires – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome I, and Rome II (the final kingdom of Antichrist)
 - The final one is made up of all the kingdoms represented by the horns (see *Revelation 17: 9-13*)
 - The Horns - Ten is a number that symbolizes the totality of human military and political power assisting the beast (Antichrist) as he controls the world

- Horns always represent power, as in the animal kingdom – both offensive power (attack) and defensive power (protection)
- In Daniel’s vision of the four beasts (in *Daniel 7*) he sees the fourth beast (the most terrifying one of all) as having ten horns (see *Daniel 7: 7*) – they are 10 kingdoms/kings who form the empire, as in the Roman Empire
- Daniel sees that the end-time Antichrist (the ‘little horn’ rising in the midst of the 10 horns) will rise up from these ten kings (see *Daniel 7: 8, 16 – 25*)
- John picks up the numerical imagery of *Daniel 2: 41 – 42*, which refers to the ten toes (kingdoms) on the statue’s clay and iron feet
- John sees the beast as the final world government – the anti-Christ, anti-God coalition – headed by a revived Roman Empire, having the strengths of various world powers, yet mixed with weakness and ultimately crushed (see *Daniel 2: 32-45; Revelation 19: 19-25*)
- A Blasphemous Name on his heads
 - Throughout history, every time a monarch has identified himself as a god, he has blasphemed the true God
 - Each ruler who contributes to the beast’s final coalition has an identity, wears a crown, exerts dominion and power, and, therefore, blasphemes God
 - The blasphemous nature of the Beast from the Sea was foreseen by Daniel in his vision of the fourth beast (see *Daniel 7: 23 – 25*) and the vision of the 70th Week (see *Daniel 9: 27*)
- Crowns (Greek: *diadema*) are the crowns of a ruler
 - Contrasting with the crown of a victor (Greek: *stephanos*)
 - One crown on each horn – indicating ten kingdoms

How does John describe the Characteristics of this Beast? Verse 2

- Like a Leopard
 - A metaphor for ancient Greece, alluding to the Greeks’ swiftness and agility as their military moved forward in conquest, particularly under Alexander the Great (see *Daniel 7: 6*) – the third beast in *Daniel 7*
- Feet like the feet of a Bear
 - A metaphor for the ancient Medo-Persian Empire, depicting that kingdom’s ferocious strength, combined with its great stability (see *Daniel 7: 5*) – the second beast in *Daniel 7*
- Mouth like the mouth of a Lion
 - A metaphor for the ancient Babylonian Empire, referring to the Babylonians’ fierce, all-consuming power as they extended their domain (see *Daniel 7: 4*) – the first beast in *Daniel 7*
- This beast carries the personifications of the four beasts in the vision of Daniel in *Daniel 7* (but in *Revelation 13* in reverse order...looking back)
 - First beast like a lion with eagles wings (*Daniel 7: 4*)
 - Symbolically the Babylonian Empire
 - The lion communicates arrogantly (roaring)
 - The feature John sees of the lion is its mouth

- Second beast like a bear (*Daniel 7: 5*)
 - Symbolically the Medo-Persian Empire
 - The bear controls extensively (powerful)...trampling others
 - The feature John sees of the bear is its feet
- Third beast like a leopard (*Daniel 7: 6*)
 - Symbolically the Greek Empire
 - The leopard conquers swiftly (within thirteen years Alexander conquered the world, marching as far east as India)
- Fourth beast dreadful and terrible – having ten horns
 - Symbolically the Roman Empire (Rome I)
 - This empire was not conquered, but broke up into nations and groups of nations
 - This beast is powerful and destructive – different from the others but with some of their bestial characteristics
 - The Roman Empire would cease, but not be conquered like the previous empires, it would be innate in the nations which would have its characteristics, as well as some of those of the previous empires
- After a considerable space of time, the Roman Empire is revived (Rome II)
 - It is in this revived form that it will have ten horns, that is, ten kings, and a little horn, i.e., the future head of the revived Roman Empire – the Antichrist
- The Coming World Leader is the last of a succession of secular rulers and his kingdom will be the last before Yeshua's return
 - The revived Roman Empire thus resembles its predecessors in that it is swift to conquer like **a leopard**, powerful as **a bear**, and ferocious and greedy as **a lion**
 - In short, it combines all the evil features of the preceding world empires – Rome I was such at the time of Yeshua's first coming, and Rome II, the revived Roman empire, will be so in the end times before Yeshua's second coming
- The Beast from the Sea thus relates to a revived Roman Empire
 - It combines all the attributes of the previous kingdoms
 - The revived Roman Empire thus resembles its predecessors in that it is swift to conquer like **a leopard**, powerful as **a bear**, and ferocious and greedy as **a lion**
 - This Beast combines all the evil features of the preceding world empires
 - The Beast speaks pompous words (blasphemies) like the 4th beast in Daniel 7 (see *Daniel 7: 8*)

How does the Beast exercise his rule and dominance? Verse 2

- The Beast from the Sea, the empire and its ruler, receive supernatural strength from the Dragon
 - The Dragon is identified in *Revelation 12: 9*
 - That old serpent (an allusion to the Garden of Eden)
 - Called The Devil (Greek: *diabolos*) meaning false accuser, slanderer
 - Called Satan (Greek: *Satanas*) meaning accuser, adversary (enemy)
 - He deceives the whole world - throughout human history he has deceived mankind, and will do so during the Tribulation, and again at the end of the Millennium when released from the bottomless pit

- The Dragon gives to the Beast from the Sea (*verse 2*):
 - His power (Greek: *dunamis*) – both worldly and supernatural (miraculous)...lying signs and wonders (*2 Thessalonians 2: 9*)
 - His throne (Greek: *thronos*) – seat of power and authority – Satan’s throne (see *Revelation 2: 13*) – possibly the Papal throne in Rome
 - Great Authority (Greek: *meas exousia*) – authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength
- This Beast is an end-time world ruler – all-powerful
- This Beast is demonic – he comes from the bottomless pit (the place of demons)
 - He will be a demon in human form
 - He is responsible for killing the Two Witnesses (see *Revelation 11: 7*)
 - He is the beast who was, is not, and yet is – speaking of a false death and resurrection (see *Revelation 17: 8*)
 - He is a False Christ – compare *Revelation 17: 8* and *1: 8* – as identified by a mortal wound on one the beast’s heads (*Revelation 13: 3*)
 - He is the beast who ascends out of the bottomless pit – the place of demons (see *Revelation 17: 8*)
 - His end is ‘perdition’ (Greek: *apōleia*) meaning ruin or loss (*Revelation 17: 8*) – he will be cast into the Lake of Fire (see *Revelation 19: 20*)

How is the Beast from the Sea often named?

- Often called ‘The Antichrist’ (Greek: *antichristos*)
- ‘Antichrist’ means ‘opponent of the anointed one’ – ‘in the place of Christ’
 - A spiritual power or personality rather than a human identity
 - A spirit which is also an anti-type of the true Christ (a pseudo-Christ)
- Anti-Christ in scripture – the words appear only in the letters of John
 - *1 John 2: 18* His Hour
 - In the last hour the* Antichrist will come, says John
 - * note ‘the’ is not in the Greek text
 - Even now...many antichrists have come (Greek: *ginomia* – meaning come to be) – indicating that this spiritual power is at work through the ages, and in every age
 - Hence, in scriptural terms, ‘antichrist’ is a spirit rather than a person
 - The Beast in Revelation 13 is the archetype and culmination of all that is ‘antichrist’, that is...of the antichrist spirit; therefore it may be more accurate to speak of the Beast as the Coming World Leader
 - *1 John 2: 22* The Character of ‘Antichrist’
 - Denies that Jesus is the Christ (‘anointed one’ – Messiah)
 - Denies the Father and the Son – denies the deity of Yeshua
 - *1 John 4: 3* The ‘spirit’ of Antichrist
 - Denies that Jesus has come in the flesh – denies the humanity of Yeshua
 - This spirit is already in the world (in the apostle John’s day)
 - *2 John 1: 7* A Deceiver
 - Denies that Jesus has come in the flesh – denies His humanity
 - Many deceivers have gone out into the world – many such deniers of Christ’s humanity, but all in one ‘spirit’ of antichrist

See Supplementary Note 50: 'The Antichrist in Scripture'

What specific identifying physical characteristic does the Beast have? Verse 3

- Specific identifier – A Head Wound (see *verse 3*, and also *verses 12* and *14*)
 - A mortal wound which had been healed – on one of his seven heads
 - This implies he was wounded as if dead
 - His followers ‘wonder’ – it appears that he has returned from the dead
 - This is a counterfeit of Yeshua – see *John 20: 19-20; Revelation 5: 6*)
 - The wound refers to a fake death and resurrection enacted by the Beast, as part of his lying deception – see Yeshua’s warning of end-times (*Matthew 24: 24*)
 - Some commentators interpret the head wound as a government or kingdom which is revived; others interpret it literally to the person of the ‘Beast from the Sea’; i.e. he will have a healed head wound
 - Both views may be right - however it seems clear from the later verses that this is referring to an individual
 - A wound from a sword (*verse 14*) – counterfeit of Yeshua (*John 19: 34*)
 - There is a similarity here to ‘the worthless (idol) shepherd’ – this may be a descriptor of the antichrist – see *Zechariah 11: 16-17*
 - The sword shall be upon his arm and his right eye
 - His arm shall be completely withered
 - His right eye shall be completely blinded
 - Hence, why the followers of this ‘Coming World Leader’ take a mark identifying with him on their hand or forehead
- The head wound seems, from the text of chapter 13, to be a major identifier of ‘the Beast from the Sea’
- Historical Relevance & Application
 - Fragments of the ancient Roman Empire have never ceased to exist as separate kingdoms
 - It was the imperial form of government which ceased; the one head wounded to death
 - The **deadly wound** is **healed** - in other words, the empire is revived with an emperor as head, namely, **the beast**

What is the reaction of the earth-dwellers? Verses 3b – 4

- All the world marvels at him (*verse 3b*) – all the world is in wonder and admiration
- This promotes worship of the Dragon (Satan) and the Beast (see *verses 4* and *12*)
 - Worship of the Dragon (Satan) ... because of the Beast from the Sea
 - The followers of the ‘Coming World Leader’ will be Satan worshippers – there are many such today:
 - Muslims worshipping Allah and Mohammed
 - Buddhists, Hindus, etc
 - Satanists and occult worshippers
 - There seems to be a worldwide recognition that Satan is the source of the power which the Beast from the Sea possesses

- People in the world will be astounded and fascinated by the Beast who appears to have risen from the dead
 - The Beast from the Sea beguiles the world with ‘all power, signs, and lying wonders’ (see *2 Thessalonians 2: 8-12*)
 - His charisma, brilliance, and attractive but deluding powers will cause the world to follow him unquestioningly
 - He is aided by the Beast from the Earth who promotes (causes) people to worship the Beast from the Sea (see *Revelation 13: 14*)
 - Those who follow the Beast will only be fooling themselves: He will use his power to manipulate others, to point to himself, and to promote evil plans
 - Our Father God, by contrast, uses his infinitely greater power to love and to build up and to promote righteousness
- Worshippers say:
 - ‘Who is like the beast’ (compare *Colossians 1: 15-17*)
 - ‘Who can make war with him’ - i.e. he is deemed to be indestructible and invincible
 - He arises initially as a peacemaker and solver of the world’s problems, but he becomes a military leader and reveals his true nature (see *Daniel 9: 27*)

His Power and Activity

Verses 5 – 8

What is the period of the Beast’s authority?

Verse 5

- He was given power to continue 42 months; i.e. the last 3½ years of the tribulation period – that part of the 7 year Tribulation [Daniel’s 70th week] called by Yeshua the time of ‘great tribulation’ (see *Matthew 24: 21*)
 - ‘Continue’ – the Beast has already been active for 42 months (the first half of the Tribulation period) – but his continuance in the second half is his ultimate evil purpose against Israel and Tribulation Saints...and the Lord
 - It seems that the Beast (the Coming World Leader) initially appears as a political problem solver, statesman and peacemaker (first 42 months)
 - The Tribulation period begins when the Coming World Leader confirms a covenant with ‘the many’ (that is, the Jewish people, Israel) – see *Daniel 9: 27*
 - After 3½ years, at the point where Satan is cast to the earth (see notes on Chapter 12), the Coming World Leader shows his true colours when he desecrates the Holy of Holies in the Tribulation Temple (*Daniel 9: 27*) – by the ‘abomination that desolates’ (see *Matthew 24: 15*)

What seems to be the Beast’s principal action?

Verses 5 and 6

- He was given a mouth speaking:
 - Great Things – good sounding words (like politician’s speeches) and proud boasts (like politicians!)
 - Blasphemies (Greek: *blasphēmia*) meaning *vilification* (especially against God), evil speaking with railing & rage
- He was ‘given’ – given by the dragon (Satan) from whom he gets his power, throne and authority (*verse 2*)

- The sovereign God will establish the limits within which the Beast will be allowed to speak and operate – but his speaking is through Satan’s demonic power and activity
- Blasphemies Against God – the great mark of the Beast from the Sea
 - Against God’s Name (character)
 - Against God’s tabernacle (His dwelling place where He is worshipped)
 - Against them that dwell in heaven (angels and saints)
 - There are many OT & NT references to the blasphemies of the antichrist – see *Daniel 7: 20 and 25; 2 Thessalonians 2: 3-4*

What other powers was the Beast given? Verse 7

- Power to make war with the saints – and to overcome them (a contrast with the church (*Matthew 16: 18*))
 - The saints concerned here are:
 - Tribulation saints (gentiles) – see *Revelation 6: 9-11*
 - Messianic believers (restored Israel) – see *Jeremiah 30: 7-9*
 - To be a believer in this time means persecution and death
- Authority over every tribe, tongue and nation – worldwide
 - All who dwell upon the earth (earth-dwellers)
 - It may well be that the worship of the Beast leads to tribes, tongues and nations to give the Beast authority over them (willingly)
 - Various nations (Russia, Turkey, Iran, Sudan, Libya and others) will come against Israel and be defeated (see *Ezekiel 38 and 39*) – it may be that this opens the way for the Beast to come as peacemaker (remember he ‘confirms a covenant’ [*Daniel 9: 27*])
 - The ‘every tribe, tongue and nation’ may indicate that Israel too falls under the spell of the Beast...both in worship and giving him power over them – especially after the Beast ‘confirms a covenant’ with Israel...quite possibly this is the Land Covenant asserting Israel’s right to the land given by God in Genesis (*Genesis 12: 1-3, 12: 6-8, 13: 14-17, 15: 7-21, 17: 5-8*)
 - Clearly, Yeshua’s warnings in *Matthew 24: 15-22* are not heeded by all Jewish people – hence this ‘time of Jacob’s trouble’
 - His rule extends over all the world – the last world empire before Yeshua’s return to rule and to reign – the last 3½ years of the tribulation the Beast will turn from peacemaker to show his true tyrannical, demonic character

See Supplementary Note 51: ‘The Revived Roman Empire (Rome II)’

What is said about those who worship the Beast? Verse 8

- They are called ‘those who dwell on the earth’
 - Earth Dwellers – those whose lives and focus are on earthly things and not on God – they are non-believers
 - All such people – note **all** – will worship the Beast
 - Only those who have been born again, whose lives are focussed on God and His Son, Yeshua – only these are excluded...for they are not ‘earth-dwellers’ but citizens of heaven (see *Ephesians 1: 3-4*)

- Earth-dweller’s names are not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life (*verse 8*)
 - Because their names are not found among those of the redeemed, they are given over to error – they would not believe the truth; now they believe a lie
 - See *Revelation 13: 12-14, 17: 8 and 20: 15*
 - Contrast with the Gospel – see *Revelation 14: 6-7*
 - The Book of Life – see *Revelation 3: 5; Daniel 12: 1; Luke 10: 20*
- Note: **‘the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world’!!!!!!**
 - God’s Salvation Plan was initiated from the very foundation of the world
 - All things were created by Yeshua, for Yeshua (*Colossians 1: 16-20*)
 - According to God’s eternal, electing purpose before creation, the death of Christ seals the redemption of the elect forever (see *Hebrews 7: 25*)
 - Neither Satan nor the Beast can ever take away the salvation of the elect
 - The eternal registry of the elect will never be altered, nor will the saved in the Beast’s day worship him.

Matthew Henry comments in relation to verse 8:

The limitation of the devil’s power and success, and that both as to time and persons. He is limited in point of time; his reign is *to continue forty-and-two months* (verse 5), suitable to the other prophetic characters of the reign of antichrist. He is also limited as to the persons and people that he shall entirely subject his will and power; it will be only those *whose names are not written in the Lamb’s book of life*. Christ had a chosen remnant, *redeemed by his blood, recorded in his book, sealed by his Spirit*; and though the devil and antichrist might overcome their bodily strength, and take away their natural life, they could never conquer their souls, nor prevail with them to forsake their Saviour and revolt to his enemies.

A Warning and an Encouragement

Verses 9 – 10

Where have we seen the Warning in verse 9 before?

Verse 9

- ‘If any man has an ear, let him hear’
- It is the ‘closing phrase’ for each of the letters to the seven churches
 - There it was a call to the churches, and to anyone reading the letters, to take heed to what was said and to react appropriately
- This warning follows the warning that earth dwellers do not have their names in the Lamb’s Book of Life (*verse 8*)

What Encouragement is given to the Saints?

Verse 10

- Encouragement for the saints – to persevere with patience and faith - the trials of the saints will not last, and there is great reward!
 - If captivity – then the saints are assured that the captor (antichrist) will go into captivity (*Revelation 20: 1-3*)
 - If death – then the saints are assured that he who kills will be killed – in like manner (*Revelation 19: 20-21*)

- Patience – Greek: *hupomonē*, meaning cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy; enduring and patient continuance (waiting)
 - An encouragement for saints today as well as for tribulation saints
- Faith – Greek: *pistis*, meaning persuasion, that is, credence; moral conviction (of religious truth) and especially *reliance* upon Christ for salvation

Ch 13 Vs 11 – 18 **The Beast from the Earth**

His Identity and Authority

Verses 11 – 12

Who does John See and what is the Significance of his Origin?

Verse 11

- A second beast (Greek: *therion*) – a beast of prey (wild beast) ...as distinct from the four ‘beasts (‘living creatures’) in chapters 4 & 6 (Greek: *zoon*)
- Arising out of the earth (Greek: *gē* – Hebrew equivalent: *eretz*) (*verse 11*)
 - Scripture uses ‘the earth’ as an idiom for the Jewish nation (in contrast to the Gentiles) - see *Deuteronomy 7: 6; Isaiah 49: 6 and 8, 66: 8; Hosea 2: 23*
 - Many commentators therefore say that this ‘beast’ is a Jew; *Ezekiel 21: 25-27*
 - Similarities to Antiochus Epiphanes *Ezekiel 28: 2-10; Daniel 11: 36-39*
 - Israel will Receive Another who comes in his Own Name – so said Yeshua – see *John 5: 43* - ‘another’ (Greek: *allos*), meaning another of the same kind, i.e. a Jew like Jesus; not Greek: *heteros*) meaning another of a different kind
 - Possibly ‘out of the earth’ is another reference to the abyss (the bottomless pit) that lies below the earth – the home of demons – i.e. this Beast from the Earth is also demonic, like the Beast from the Sea
- Two horns – like a lamb (Greek: *arnion*) – literally meaning...a ‘lambkin’ – a little lamb
 - Two Horns – indicating power or authority from two sources – Satan and the Beast from the Sea
 - This describes the relative weakness of this beast compared to the Beast from the Sea, who has ten horns – a lamb has only two small bumps on its head, very inferior to the ten-horned beast
- Spoke – ‘as a dragon’
 - Speaking with the voice of the dragon (Satan) – a deceiver – thus, elsewhere, he is called the False Prophet – see *Revelation 16: 13, 19: 20., 20: 10*
 - The false prophet will be Satan's mouthpiece and, thus, his message will be like the dragon, Satan—the source of all false religion (*2 Corinthians 11: 13-14*)

What Authority does this Beast have and what is his Purpose? Verse 12

- The Beast from the Earth exercises all the power of the first beast (Beast from the Sea – the Coming World Leader) – he is given authority to act on behalf of the first beast

- The false prophet exercises the same kind of satanic power as the Coming World Leader (the Antichrist) because he is empowered by the same source (the dragon...Satan)
 - He acts under the authority of the Beast from the Sea, whose authority comes from the dragon (Satan)
 - 'In his presence' – implies that this Beast is part of a double act – that the Beast from the Earth literally performs his role in the presence of the Beast from the Sea
 - He will have worldwide influence and reputation as a miracle worker and speaker (*verses 13 – 14*)
- He causes 'earth dwellers' to worship the first beast (with his wound identifier) – like the role of the Holy Spirit in relation to Yeshua
 - The Holy Spirit (who proceeds from the Father) always glorifies and points to Yeshua
 - The False Prophet (a false Holy Spirit), likewise, points to the Beast from the Sea (the false Christ) under the same power as him...the power of the dragon
 - This is a demonic and false Holy Trinity – seeking to deceive earth-dwellers and lead them to false worship and demon worship
 - The Mortal Wound that has been healed is a carefully crafted deception of a false resurrection of the Beast from the Sea (see *verses 12 and 14*)

His Power and Activity

Verses 13 – 15

How does this Beast cause earth-dwellers to worship the Beast from the Sea?

Verse 13

- He performs Great Signs (counterfeit occultic power)
 - Great Signs (Greek: *megas sēmeion*), meaning great wonders and miracles
 - False evidences to confirm lies and deceptions
- Makes Fire come down from Heaven – like Elijah (*2 Kings 1: 10-12*)
 - Counterfeit pyrotechnic signs to convince people of his power
 - An imitation of the two witnesses (see *Revelation 11: 5*)

What is the impact of his actions on the 'earth-dwellers'?

Verse 14

- He Deceives 'earth-dwellers' – Satan's primary skill
 - By performing miracles, signs and wonders
- He Causes 'earth-dwellers' to worship the Beast from the Sea
 - "He causes" is used eight times of him
 - He wields influence to establish a false world religion headed by Antichrist and to entice people to accept that system – a one-world religion
 - The worship of the earth-dwellers is effectively given to the dragon (Satan) through their worshipping of the Beast from the Sea
 - The followers of the 'Coming World Leader' will be Satan worshippers – there are many such today:
 - Muslims worshipping Allah and Mohammed
 - Satanists and occult worshippers

- The Beast from the Sea himself is worshipped – yet there seems to be a recognition that Satan is the source of the power which the Beast from the Sea has
- He tells ‘earth-dwellers’ to ‘Make an Image’ of the first beast (a focus for worship)
 - This is the ‘Abomination of Desolation’ (*Matthew 24: 15*), or ‘the abomination which makes desolate’ (*Daniel 9: 27*)
 - It is an image erected to a false god (the Coming World Leader) – a false messiah)
 - Erected in the Holy of Holies (*Matthew 24: 15*)
 - Foretold by Daniel (see *Daniel 9: 27; 11: 31; 12: 11-12*)
 - Foreshadowed in Nebuchadnezzar’s golden image Daniel 3
 - Pre-figured in Antiochus Epiphanes 167BC
 - Note the mortal wound identifier of the first beast, again in *verse 14*

How is the Image used by the Beast?

Verse 15

- He gave breath to the image of the beast – the image became animated...alive
 - Breath (Greek: *pneuma*) meaning spirit or breath same Greek word as in Holy ‘Spirit’
- ‘He was given power’, presumably by the Beast from the Sea (and, by inference ...from the dragon)
 - Power to give life to the image of the first beast (the Coming World Leader)
 - So that the image speaks – it is animated
 - The false prophet will give the image of Antichrist the appearance of life, and the image will seem to utter words – contrary to what is normally true of idols (see *Psalms 135: 15-16*)
- The False Prophet, possibly through the speaking image, causes those who do not worship the image of the Coming World Leader to be put to death
 - His lamb-like gentleness is a lie, since he is a killer (*Revelation 7:9-17*)
 - Foreshadowed in Daniel 3 (The Fiery Furnace)
 - Reminiscent of the Catholic inquisitions
 - Islam teaches that all infidels (unbelievers) should be put to death
 - Those killed are the Tribulation Saints (see *Revelation 7: 9-17*)
 - The Jewish people who heed Yeshua’s warning (*Matthew 24: 15-22*) will also be protected (*Revelation 12: 6*)
- The False Prophet is a religious/political leader doing miracles – a warning to Christians who go chasing after signs and wonders and those who perform them

What should we Understand by the Phrase ‘those who dwell on the earth’ in this chapter?

Verses 8, 12 (twice), 14 (twice)

- These ‘earth dwellers’ are those who lives, thinking and whole focus is bound up with the earth and with earthly things
- It is a reference to those who have no true spiritual understanding of the Lord

The Mark of the Beast

Verses 16 – 18

- Many books have been written, and many erroneous teachings and predictions made in connection with these verses

Who instigates the 'Mark' and what is its Purpose?

Verse 16

- The False Prophet instigates this action
 - The deception and the excommunications and deaths of non-worshippers are followed by disenfranchisement
- Its purpose is to compel identification with the Beast and to thus promote worship of the false messiah
 - Reminiscent of the all-pervasive political correctness today, which seeks to exclude Christian worship and ethics from all public life
- All are affected by this decree – small, great, rich, poor free, slave
 - A universal decree from which none are excluded
 - Earth-dwellers presumably take this mark willing – having been deceived and (presumably) being complicit in the execution of those who would not worship the image of the beast

Where do people have the 'Mark'?

Verse 16

- A mark – on the right hand or forehead
 - The mark is on the places which mirror the marks on the body of the first beast (the Coming World Leader) – a blasphemous name (*verse 1*) and a deadly wound (*verse 3*), both on his head(s)
 - Head & Right Hand - very noticeable and accessible locations
- Mark (Greek: *charagma*) - a brand or seal, a stamp, scratch or etching
 - In the Roman Empire, this was a normal identifying symbol, or brand, that slaves and soldiers bore on their bodies
 - Some of the ancient mystical cults delighted in such tattoos, which identified members with a form of worship
 - Antichrist will have a similar requirement, one that will need to be visible on the hand or forehead.
 - A mark is prohibited in the Torah (see *Leviticus 19: 28; Deuteronomy 14: 1*)
 - God's Law is to be in their minds (see *Exodus 13: 9; Jeremiah 31: 33*)

What did the 'Mark' enable earth-dwellers to do?

Verse 17

- Without the mark no commercial activity can take place
 - None can enjoy natural, civil or municipal rights, who will not bear the mark
 - Without the identifying mark, individuals will be cut off from the necessities of life – it takes away the ability to use money to support oneself or ones family
 - Indicates the economic domination which the Coming World Leader will have
 - Those who accept the mark will worship the Beast, and live under oppression – and experience God's wrath and endure His judgements
 - Believers will suffer greatly through poverty, starvation and oppression

- The present push of governments towards a ‘cashless society’ and Central Bank Digital Currency could have a similar impact – the ‘beginning of sorrows’

What actually is the ‘Mark’?

Verses 17 – 18

- It is the mark ‘of the beast’ – **his** mark
 - The Mark, or
 - The Name of the Beast, or
 - The Number of his (the Beast’s) Name
- The mark indicates the name of the beast (the Coming World Leader) or his number
 - Indicates allegiance to the beast
 - Indicates worship of the beast
- The mark is a means of control
 - Fallen human nature desires power and control – yet this Beast is worse...he is demonic
 - Governments want power and control – by force (even in democracies), by deceit, and by false promises
 - Governments will use all things in their desire to control – technology, AI, the corruption of money, the seduction of sex, even the spreading of disease (e.g. Covid)
 - For the Beast...the endgame is not political but spiritual
- The number of the beast (*verse 18*)
 - “Here is wisdom, let him that has understanding” – similar to the injunction in the letters to the seven churches ‘he who has ears to hear, let him hear’
 - Let him count (Greek: *psēphizō*) (‘calculate’ in NKJV) – a meaning derived from using pebbles in enumeration, to compute
 - The number of the beast – it is the number of a man
 - A clear indication that the beast (the Coming World Leader) is not a god, but a man, a false messiah – albeit he is a demon (from the bottomless pit) in human guise
 - It is not a bar-code or non-identity mark – it is the Beast’s Mark!
 - His number is – Six hundred, threescore and six (666)
 - People who know nothing of the Bible nonetheless will have heard of 666
 - Biblically, 6 is the number of man – one short of 7 (which is perfection) – see *Romans 3: 23*
- Receiving the Mark
 - Various things have been thought, by some, to be relevant to ‘the mark’ – insertable chips, RFID, bar-codes, etc
 - But it is not ‘our’ mark, in the sense of who we are, but ‘his’ (the Beast) – it is about who he is!
 - To receive the mark means eternal damnation (*Revelation 14: 9-11*)
- Numbers in Scripture
 - Greek, like Hebrew, has numbers associated with letters: in Greek, Christos is ‘Χριστός’

- Taking the first and last letters and inserting in the middle the letter Xi ξ one gets a designation for anti-Christ 'X ξ' ζ'
- The value of these Greek letters is

X	600
ξ'	60
ζ	6

	666

- Gematria (assigning numerical values to a word or phrases) has been used to identify a whole variety of people as being the anti-Christ
- Numerical Properties of 666
 - It is the sum of the first thirty-six natural numbers, which makes it a triangular number
 - It is the sum of the squares of the first seven primes
 - The Roman numeral for 666, DCLXVI, has exactly one occurrence of all symbols whose value is less than 1000 in decreasing order (D = 500, C = 100, L = 50, X = 10, V = 5, I = 1)
- We should be wary of these sorts of linguistic or numerical gymnastics
- Great Dangers
 - To focus too much on 'the Antichrist'
 - Seeking to identify him
 - Focus on 666
 - A pre-requisite for the Antichrist being revealed is the Rapture
 - We are to look for and focus on the second coming of the Lord
 - Danger of deception
 - Satan's 'Antichrist' will deceive
 - Only in the Lord, by His Spirit, through His word... is there truth

See Note on 'Daniel Chapter 9 Verse 27 - The Two Beasts of Revelation 13 and 'the prince who is to come''

