

“Revelation #17”

Revelation 13: 1 – 17 (The beast from the sea and the beast from the land)

Review: Chapter 12

- *From the perspective of Heaven, history and God’s promises are already but not yet!*
- **12:10...** A loud voice announces God’s victory and Satan’s defeat! *Now salvation...*
- **Bible:** *Jesus was slain from the foundation of the world.*
- In chapter 12 we had a woman, a child, and the beast...
- **Woman:** After further study, I believe she is the church plus Israel. Promise from both!
- **Child:** Jesus... The beast or dragon: Satan. Chapter 12: 9

J.I. Packer: *“This pivotal section of Revelation shows the Satanic opposition Christians face but also reminds readers that, through the work of Jesus, Satan has already been defeated.”*

Text 13: 1 – 2 Read.

- *Compare these verses with Daniel 7: 3 – 7... (Read)*
- Daniel is looking forward, while John is looking backward...

In Daniel we have four beasts, what do they represent?...

1. The Lion is Babylon, and it has already come.
2. The Bear is Medo-Persia.
3. The Leopard is Greece.
4. The fourth with Ten horns is Rome... and this is where John is and lives! **(V2)**
combination of the previous three. *And its power comes from the dragon!*

- In John’s day this beast in V’s 1 & 2 represented the Roman Empire.

OVERVIEW BEFORE MOVING ON:

- V's 1 thru 10 We have a beast, from the sea. *Antichrist or Man of lawlessness.*

(1 John 2: 18 and 2 Thess 2: 3 – 4... Read.)

- V's 13 thru 18 We have beast, from the land. *Known as the false prophet.*

(Rev 16: 13 - 14... Rev 19:20... and Rev 20:10)

Text 13: 3 – 10 Read.

- V's 3 and 4... this mortal wound in John's day represented Nero's death. As he committed suicide by thrusting a knife into his neck. (Almost all commentators)
- Rome went into turmoil... but it recovered.
- Today and throughout history, we see nations and empires that this happens to. *Last days or final days there will be another nation or empire that will rise up with this same power and wound that seems fatal but recovers...*

Matthew 24: 23 – 25 Jesus speaking of the last days...

"If anyone says to you, look, here is the Christ! Or there! Do not believe it. For false Christ's and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand."

- V's 9 and 10 Little confusing... *"If anyone has an ear, let him hear."* (This is important)

Passion Translation: *"If anyone has been given ears to hear, he'd better listen! For the one who leads others into captivity, into captivity he goes, the one that kills others by the sword, by the sword he will be put to death. This is a call for the endurance and faithfulness of the holy believers."*

Text 13: 11 – 18 Read.

- Basically, this second beast or false prophet represents false religion and worship.
- A false religion or cult that performs signs and wonders... **To deceive...**
- V12, He makes the earth, and its inhabitants worship the first beast...

J.I. Packer: *“This beast also finds partial fulfillment in the false religions, philosophies, and ideologies that arise throughout this present age.”*

And I would add: False Theologies since the beginning of time... even in John’s day!

Now the million dollar question... (V18)

- #1 it is the number of a man... 6 is the number for man, he was created on the 6th day.
- Some translations say it is the number of humanity...
- I don’t know!

Amir Tsarfati: *“The number 666, or possibly 616 according to some early Greek manuscripts, is most likely referring to the future Antichrist. What exactly do those numbers mean. It’s another one of the mysteries of this intriguing of books... if God has left blank the final word in the sentence, we shouldn’t waste too much brainpower on speculation... This chapter is about two people who will rise up and take over the world. Rather than turning people to the worship of the living God, they will force the worship of the Antichrist. Those who don’t worship his image will be put to death.”*