

**“The Beast Rising Out of the Sea”
Revelation 13:1-4**

Last Sunday: The three losses of Satan: Christ, Michael and the angelic host, and God’s people

Today: The Beast Rising Out of the Sea

The Top 10 characteristics of the beast rising out of the sea:

1. **Substance**: a system and a person (Rev. 13:1)
2. **Leadership**: for a short time, the most popular leader of all time (Rev. 13:7)
3. **Charisma**: “False christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.” (Mt. 24:24).
4. **Strength**: the only man who can kill the two witnesses (Rev. 11:7).
5. **Pride**: he takes his seat in the temple and declares himself to be god (2 Th. 2:4, Dn. 9:27).
6. **Adoration**: worshipped by unbelievers; not as ‘antichrist’ but as the Messiah (Rev. 13:4)
7. **Power**: one of only two persons whom we think Satan indwells (Jn. 13:27; Rev. 13:4)
8. **Wrath**: He hates believers and he will overcome (conquer) them (Rev. 13:7).
9. **Religion**: He seems to support a false religion and then will destroy it later (Rev. 17:16).
10. **Ethnicity**: Gentile? Dan. 9:26, “Prince of the people that shall come...” (Roman, European?)

13:1/ “And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.”

The Beast = THE Antichrist: two definitions of “anti” (both apply):

1. Against: God’s people or God’s character
2. In place of

Hippolytus, *Treatise on Christ and Antichrist*, “For the deceiver seeks to liken himself in all things to the Son of God. Christ is a lion, so Antichrist is also a lion. Christ is a king; so Antichrist is also a king. ... The Savior gathered together the sheep that were scattered abroad, and he too will bring together a people that is scattered abroad. The Lord gave a seal to those who believed on him, and he too will give one in like manner. The Savior appeared in the form of man, and he too will come in the form of a man.”

His symbolic characteristics:

- Ten horns: symbolic of kings or kingdoms
- Seven heads: symbolic of seven kings or seven world empires
- Ten diadems: royal crowns

Who exactly is this beast from the sea?

1. Preterist (past): Roman Empire and its “fullest expression,” Nero (humanity = Adam).
2. Historicist (timeline): The Roman Empire or Papal Rome.
3. Idealist (spiritual): Any government that opposes God’s kingdom, manifested in Rome.
4. Futurist (future): A revived Roman Empire and a particular man (early church fathers)

13:2/ “And the beast that I saw...”

These are visions of the future world empires from Dan. 7:1-7 (yet in reverse order):

- Leopard: symbolic of Greece
- Bear: symbolic of Medo-Persia
- Lion: symbolic of Babylon
- *Which empire is missing?

13:3/ “One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast.”

What is the wounded head and how was it (or is it) restored?

1. Preterist (**past**):
 - a. Either Julius Caesar or Nero. Though the head of the empire dies, the head is restored in the person of Octavius or Vespasian.
2. Historicist (**timeline**):
 - a. When Pope Pius VI was banished into exile in 1798. The head was restored when the papacy regained his political and religious might with the Concordat of 1801.
3. Idealist (**spiritual**):
 - a. The wounded head is Nero or Rome but restored under Vespasian or Domitian.
4. Futurist (**future**):
 - a. The wounded head is that of the Antichrist to come. He is then restored, not resurrected.

13:4/ “Who is like the beast?”

G. K. Beale notes the similarities of Jesus Christ and the Antichrist:

- Both have horns (Rev. 5:6, 13:1)
- Both were slain and raised “back to life” (Rev. 5:6, 13:3)
- Both have followers with their names written on their foreheads (Rev. 13:16, 14:1).
- Both receive world-wide worship (Rev. 5:8-14, 13:4)