

THE REVELATION

JULY 28, 2024

Chapter 13:1-9

As Chapter 13 begins, we are still on a journey through the *seventh trumpet*, also referred to by the flying eagle as the third woe. This seventh trumpet unveils a list of the major participants contributing to the *time of Jacob's trouble* also called in the REVELATION *the tribulation of Israel*. This time of tribulation occurs in the seven years just prior to the Second Coming of the LORD. This section can be understood best as *history within prophecy*. The *history* within its words can be *past or present* and the *prophecy* will tell the *future*.

In introducing these participants who are being presented in the REVELATION for the first time, it was necessary for the LORD to tell a short history about each one. It is the history found in the previous 65 books of the Bible. This history is to accurately identify their influence in the story of the world through the ages. In most of the introductions, the LORD tells the history to the point of the tribulation when they arrive, and then quickly, He sums up the rest of their activities until the Second Coming. With each, it is just a short summary – not the whole story. We must be careful not to take each introduction as the full and final word.

In the last lesson, we looked at the Ark, which holds and represents the covenant of God directed to His creation, the Nation of Israel, the birth of the Messiah, the great red dragon, and his antics to persecute the Nation of Israel. This lesson will look at two more major participants, and in the next lesson, we will meet more. But this *seventh trumpet* does not introduce all the participants in the REVELATION, more will be revealed in the *bowls of wrath*. For now, we will be introduced to two beasts, one from the sea and one from the land.

e) The Appearance on Earth (13:1-15:4)

(1) The Beast of the Sea (13:1-10)

(a) Its Horns and Heads (13:1)

Rev 13:1 And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.

Satan – (the dragon, the red dragon, the devil) will need help. He will need a nation that controls a mass of people to gather an army to participate in his ultimate attempt to destroy the Nation of Israel and the fight against the LORD at the great battle in the valley of Megiddo. The REVELATION has not revealed that thought yet. John sees the dragon standing “*on the sand of the seashore*” in expectation of the arrival of this *first beast*. The LORD presents him as an animal and tells us his physical characteristics.

The passage tells us that this *beast* will be seen “*coming up out of the sea*.” He did not come out of the ocean; rather, he came out of the sea. We have already made the case for this sea being known as *The*

Great Sea in John's time, but known today as *The Mediterranean Sea*. The sea is important, but how and what does this *beast* look like?

He has ten (10) horns. As just mentioned in the description of the "great red dragon," these "horns" on this *beast* are the symbols of countries established in the history of the world and recorded in the Bible. Each horn is a country. As a reminder of what we discovered in the last lesson, with the takeover of the Western and Eastern Roman Empires, ten countries were formed. The Germanic Goths defeated the Western Empire in 476 AD and subsequently divided the land mass into the countries of *Britain, France (Gaul), Spain, Italy* and *North Africa*. The Ottoman Muslim Turks defeated the Eastern Empire in 1453 AD and subsequently divided the land mass into the countries of *Greece, Macedonia, Turkey, Syria, and Egypt*. These are the ten countries that surround the *Great Sea*, known as the *Mediterranean Sea*, save for the horn (country) of *Britain*. In this verse, the "great red dragon," Satan, stands on the seashore waiting for this *beast* to appear. He is waiting for these ten nations to form an empire. Although Satan has done great damage in the history of humanity within the world, the simplest being his ability to deceive Eve in the garden, his greatest work has been done through his control of the great empires that have existed throughout the history of the world. Those empires were called *Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome*. With the formation of a final empire around the *Mediterranean Sea*, a *Revived Roman Empire*, for lack of a better name, will be the last empire that Satan will control and wreak havoc on the earth to rule over the Nation of Israel. These seven empires form the second characteristic of this *beast* represented by his seven heads. The ten horns represent the ten countries that will join in the last days, and these seven heads represent the seven empires that have controlled and tormented the Nation of Israel. By the time of the fall of the Eastern Roman Empire in 1453 AD, which had controlled the Promised Land for many centuries, the victorious Muslims took over the land of Israel in earnest under Islamic control. It would remain under that control until World War I, when Great Britain would be assigned to manage the country. Great Britain would give the land back to Israel in 1948. Israel lost control of the land in 606 BC, and it was returned in 1948 AD. The Promised Land did not belong to Israel for 2,554 years even though the Jews lived on the land all along; they were visitors on land owned by other empires for two and a half thousand years.

It is imperative that we return to the Old Testament to identify this ten-nation new *Revived Roman Empire* found in Daniel Chapter 2. Nebuchadnezzar was the king of the Babylonian Empire. The Assyrians had conquered the Egyptians, and Nebuchadnezzar had conquered the Assyrians. The king had been having a recurring dream about a statue with different body parts made from different materials. Frustrated, he called for an interpretation, and Daniel was able to respond. Daniel's response is found in my commentary on Daniel for each part.

Daniel's Interpretation

Head of Gold

Daniel^{2:37} "You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength, and the glory;^{2:38} and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.

Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold and the kingdom was a gift to him from God, prepared and erected for him by God. Everything in the kingdom, both man and beast, was under

Nebuchadnezzar's rule because God had given him the entire Babylonian Empire. This empire lasted from 606 BC until 536 BC.

Kingdoms of Silver and Bronze

Daniel^{2:39} "And after you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.

Daniel did not say that the second kingdom was made of silver in his response, but that information was in verse 2:32 in the original description of the dream. Just as silver is inferior to gold, the second kingdom was to be inferior to Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom. In the dream, Daniel also stated that the second kingdom would have two arms. History has proven Daniel's interpretation to be correct. Cyrus' kingdom of silver had two arms, the country of the Medes and the country of the Persians, and the two joined together to swallow up the Babylonian Empire in 536 BC. It lasted until 333 BC.

A third kingdom comprising the belly was of bronze. Alexander the Great conquered the Medo-Persian Empire and created the Greek Empire beginning in 333 BC. It lasted until 63 BC.

Kingdom of Iron

Daniel^{2:40} "Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.

A fourth kingdom was made of strong iron: the Roman Empire. It engulfed the Greek Empire in 63 BC and later divided it into two empires.

Kingdom Divided

Daniel^{2:41} "And in that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay.

Diocletian divided the Roman Empire into two parts in 286 AD because of the threats from the Germanic tribes to the north and the Persians to the east. Diocletian ruled the west, and Maximian ruled the east. In 324 AD, Constantine, the Western emperor, reunited the two parts. When Theodosius became the emperor, he divided the empire again in 395 AD. Theodosius acted as the ruler over both parts; however, Honorius was the Caesar in the west, and his brother Arcadius was the Caesar in the east. The Roman Empire, which encompassed the previous Babylonian, Persian, and Greek Empires, was divided into two legs of iron in 395 AD. The west leg fell to the Germanic tribes in 476 AD. The east leg, called the Byzantine Empire, fell to the Muslim Ottoman Turks in 1453 AD.

Ten Toes Combined

Daniel^{2:42} "And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. ^{2:43} "And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.

In 476 AD, when the Germanic tribes conquered the Western Empire, they divided the land into five states or countries. Those countries are now Britain, France (Gaul), Spain, Italy, and North Africa. With the toes of the Western Empire formed, this prophecy was fulfilled in 476 AD.

In 1453 AD, when the Muslim Ottoman Turks conquered the Eastern Empire, they divided the land into five states or countries. Those countries were Macedonia, Greece, Turkey, Syria, and Egypt. With the toes of the Eastern Empire formed, this prophecy was almost fulfilled in 1453 AD.

The text says, “*they will combine with one another.*” As of 2024, since the days of 1453 AD, these ten toes have yet to combine with one another to form this new kingdom, which we will call the Revived Roman Empire, because they are the ten remnant countries of the fallen Roman Empire.

Nebuchadnezzar’s dream has yet to be fully fulfilled. In this passage, the “great red dragon” will be waiting on the sands of the shore for this *Revived Roman Empire* to emerge. It will be the last empire that he will control that will afflict the Nation of Israel.

When these ten countries finally join, the ten will be considered the ten horns, and each horn will have a “diadem.” The Hebrew word for “diadem” means *to bind around*. In other words, it means that each horn would have its own government and leader who controls each country. However, because this *beast* was presented as a single animal, it can be inferred that the ten individual governments had given up their authority to be part of this new empire.

In the last detail, we see this beast had seven heads with a “blasphemous name” written on each. The “great red dragon” had seven heads, and we discovered that they represented the seven empires that had ruled with a heavy hand over Israel. The ten children or the ten toes of the last empire were the ten countries that would unite to form this last empire. However, the seven heads of the “great red dragon” and the seven heads of this “beast” represent the same family relationship: the seven empires ruled by Satan, which mistreated the Nation of Israel. We will cover that shortly in the lesson. Here, we must focus on the “blasphemous names.” It is a direct reference to the heart of the seven leaders and their governments, which will be in total rebellion against the LORD. They will hate Him and everything He stands for. Daniel says the following about the leader of this *beast*.

Da 11:36 “*Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done.*

Daniel has introduced a fact that is not addressed in the REVELATION. The king in this verse is portrayed in Daniel as the *little horn* that grew up among the other mature horns and ended up as the ruler of the *Revived Roman Empire*. We need to hold the discussion about this leader until later in the story of the REVELATION.

(b) Its Look, Feet and Mouth (13:2)

Rev 13:2 *And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.*

We see the face, feet, and mouth of the beast. These identification marks force us to return to Daniel chapter 7.

Daniel 7:2 *Daniel said, “I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.* ³ *“And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another.* ⁴ *“The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.* ⁵ *“And behold,*

another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!'⁶ "After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.⁷ "After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

When Daniel wrote this passage, none of this had occurred; it was all still in Daniel's future. The same four winds, controlled by the four angels, which we have already studied in the REVELATION, were also mentioned in the Daniel passage. Furthermore, these winds stirred up the winds in the "great sea," known today as the *Mediterranean Sea*. Daniel saw four beasts coming out of the sea, "different from one another." Do not identify these four beasts in Daniel as the same *two beasts* in the REVELATION. These four beasts, when combined, represent this *single first beast* we are studying in REVELATION. The first three beasts that Daniel saw were the same - a lion, a bear, and a leopard. The lion with eagle's wings symbolizes the *Babylonian Empire*. The bear with three ribs in its mouth symbolizes the *Medo-Persian Empire*. The leopard with wings like a bird and four heads symbolizes the *Greek Empire and Alexander the Great's four generals who ultimately divided his kingdom into four parts*. The four parts became known during that time as Babylon, Syria, Egypt, and Rome. After many years of negotiations and fighting, Rome absorbed the other three parts, and the Roman Empire emerged – not through a final battle or war but through marriages. Then Daniel saw a fourth beast come out of the sea, "*dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.*" This *beast* was different from the other three, yet, the three were in this *beast's* lineage. They were the forerunners of this last *beast* still to come, dreadful as he would be and identified by his ten horns, the ten countries that would make up the corpus of his empire's body.

In John's description, the heads of this *beast* looked like the heads of a leopard. When the leopard known as Alexander made his move, he did so quickly. He had his whole empire under his control by the end of his campaign after just 12 years. This *beast* would be like Alexander; he would move quickly. This *beast's* feet looked like those of a bear. A bear is a different animal from a leopard. It cannot be swift; rather, it ponders its moves and then attacks with brute force to crush its victim. So, too, the feet of the *beast* in John's REVEALTION will seek to crush Israel with physical might. Its mouth will be like a lion. The lion rushes to make the kill and then lies around for days, leisurely taking his time until he is hungry again when his food is gone. It was that way for Nebuchadnezzar, who quickly made war and, within just a short while, had no need for war. He leisurely rested with all he had and needed. He looked at all he had conquered and gave himself total credit for it all. For that, the LORD plucked his wings and sent him like an animal to live in the thickets. Then, he finally came to his senses. So, too, the *beast* in the REVELATION will quickly make his move until he arrives in the valley of Megiddo, where the LORD will pluck his wings.

Finally, this *Revived Roman Empire*, represented by this *beast* with seven heads and ten horns can do nothing in this world had it not been for the "great red dragon." This empire, will be the last one controlled by Satan and he will throw all his temporal power into this *beast*.

(c) Its Wound (13:3a)

Rev 13:3a I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed.

Of the seven leopard's heads on this beast, John saw one head that had a "fatal wound," which had healed. It was no longer a dead-head. The seven heads represent the empires that Satan had controlled. As we have mentioned, in order, they are the *Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian, Roman and the Revived Roman Empires*. Only one of them died, and that was the *Roman Empire*. It died in 1453 AD at the hands of *Muslim* attackers. But in John's record, the head was healed. Symbolically, the *Roman* head will be healed, and its offspring will be the Revived Roman Empire with its ten horns.

(d) The Amazement (13:3b)

Rev 13:3b And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast;

Why are the people of the whole earth amazed at the formation of this beast? The word "earth" means *land*. Why are the people of the whole *land* amazed at this beast? What *land*? The people of the *land* surrounding the *Mediterranean Sea*, which came together to form this new beast, were amazed. John had the ability to say, "*And the whole world*" but he did not use the word *world*. John uses the words *earth* and *world* in very different ways. He uses the word *world* only six times in the Revelation.² All the other references were addressed to the *earth*, 64 times.³ The word *world* means every square inch of the planet; the word *earth* means a specific plot of land. Therefore, this refers to the plot of *land* directly involved in forming the new *Revived Roman Empire*. This understanding will guide us in determining future passages where John uses the words *earth* and *world*.

As such, the people of the land of the ten countries who united to form this empire are the ones intended here. John then says, "*and followed after the beast.*" Why? As of today, in 2024, it would be an absolute miracle for these specific ten countries to agree to unite as an empire. Britain, Spain, France, Italy, and Greece might join based on their heritage as Christian nations. Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Macedonia, and North Africa might join based on their heritage as Islamic nations. For the two to come together at this time is highly unlikely. However, Islam is making great advances in all five of the traditionally Christian nations. When these ten nations join, the people of those lands will be ardent followers of the government formed in the union.

(e) The Worship (13:4)

Rev 13:4 they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?"

The people of this new *Revived Roman Empire* will worship Satan, and he will empower the leaders of this new government. John heard their words when they said, "*Who is like the beast, and who is able*

² Revelation 3:10, 11:15, 12:9, 13:8, 16:14 and 17:8.

³ Revelation 1:5, 1:7, 3:10, 5:3, 5:6, 5:10, 5:13, 6:4, 6:8, 6:10, 6:13, 6:15, 7:1, 7:2, 7:3, 8:5, 8:7, 8:13, 9:1, 9:3, 9:4, 10:6, 11:4, 11:6, 11:10, 11:18, 12:4, 12:9, 12:12, 12:13, 12:16, 13:3, 12:16, 13:3, 13:8, 13:11, 13:12, 13:13, 13:14, 14:3, 14:6, 14:7, 14:15, 14:16, 14:18, 14:19, 16:1, 16:2, 16:18, 17:2, 17:5, 17:8, 17:18, 18:1, 18:3, 18:9, 18:11, 18:23, 18:24, 19:2, 19:19, 20:8, 20:9, 20:11, 21:1, and 21:24.

to wage war with him?" In other words, "What nation of the world has ever been as great as this new union? Because it is such a strong and powerful nation, no other nation can ever win a battle against it!"

(f) The Words (13:5)

Rev 13:5 There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.

This *beast*, this new ten-nation government, will proclaim blasphemous words for 42 months. With this, we must draw the net once again to understand that these *blasphemous and arrogant words* have a specific meaning in God's mind, which may not mean the same to the everyday human. Frankly, from an American point of view, *blasphemous and arrogant words* can mean anything from how you talk to employers, employees, teachers, friends, acquaintances, and family. None of that matters to God! John tells us what matters to God next.

(g) The Blasphemies (13:6)

Rev 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

Simply put from this verse, it matters to God what a person says about God. This new *Revived Roman Empire* will hate God and everything He expects. This nation will put its faith and trust in Satan instead of God. That is blasphemy; that is idolatry; that is sin in God's mind; that is what is important to God. This *beast of an empire* would detest even the thought of the everlasting, eternal God. The people will worship Satan, the dragon, and his *beast*.

(h) The War with Saints (13:7)

Rev 13:7 It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.

Once this *beast of a Revived Roman Empire* government is established, it will begin to make war with the saints. What saints? *Saints* in the Scripture refers to believers in God. We usually think that refers to members of the Church, but the Church is no longer on the earth. It has been gone since *Seal Six*. Then "who are the saints" referred to in this verse? In *Trumpet Six* we saw the salvation of Israel; they believe in the true God: therefore, the converted Israelites will be the new saints of the earth. However, even though we know about the salvation of the Nation of Israel, their conversion has not happened yet. But by the end of the first three and a half years of tribulation, they will be saved. In this trumpet we are getting to know all the participants involved before the tribulation starts and through the tribulation to the great day of the LORD in the valley of Megiddo. When this *beast* arrives, he will hate the Israelites and will seek to kill them. That will not be anything new. However, in other *End Times* Scriptures, this *beast* will hide its thoughts about Israel and act as if it is a friend to her. We will cover the rest of this storyline later.

Not to get too far ahead in this story, in the REVELATION, we are going to discover that a certain religion will be controlling this *beast* and it will not be the religion of *faith in the living God*, the faith that rang through the doors of the Church while it was still here on earth. The Jews will shortly

be Christians because they will believe in Christ, but this new empire will believe in Satan and put its faith and trust in him.

But, also notice that John says, “*and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.*” This new *beastly empire* will be the most powerful nation in the world when it rises to power. It may not directly control all the world’s nations, but it will have great indirect power over all the nations. Today, in our world, the United States indirectly controls the world; it does not directly control any other country except its own 50 states and its associated unincorporated territories. Somehow, the shift of the influence of world power will have occurred, and the United States will be on the back shelf. It does not mean that life in the U.S. will be much different. All that must happen for the U.S. to lose its power as the leading nation of the world is for its dollar to lose its place as the standard for which all other currencies are measured. It is frightening to think that it is that simple, but it could happen fairly quickly if the debt of the U.S. continues to grow at a rapid and out-of-control pace. The newly Revived Roman Empire would not control the world, but it would greatly affect commerce in the world.

(i) The Followers (13:8)

Rev 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

The Lord makes an extremely important distinction in this verse. “*... Everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb ...*” would fall in line with this *beastly government* and look to it with awe and amazement and, for all practical purposes, worship. We must not forget that the *Seven Seals* in the book have all been broken. The names written in that book are no longer secret; they are open to viewing in the heavens. Satan might have looked at the document before he was cast out of heaven at the beginning of this *seventh trumpet*, but we are not told anything about that in the Bible. Yet, those whose names are not in the “*book of life*” will literally drool over this *beastly government*.

(j) The Warning (13:9)

Rev 13:9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

We must not forget the following. Even though the Church has been removed from the world, the Bible will still be here. By this time in the story, the Nation of Israel would be the new saints of the world, and they would surely pick up the written Word of God and devour the messages found in the pages of the New Testament. No doubt, they will get to this part of the REVELATION and realize it is speaking directly to them. It is a warning to them. It is also a warning to all those whose names are written in the *Book of Life*, even those who have not trusted the LORD yet but will. Perhaps this would be the warning that changes their minds. “*If anyone has an ear, let him hear.*” In other words, “*If you have not ever thought about God before, you surely need to now!*”