

Revelation 13.1-10

“Terrible Tsunami”

1 thing CAPTURED WORLD’S ATTENTION > last month since I spoke
The SEA > SWIFT BLOW of TSUNAMI Waves > Death and Destruction

SEA > 1st C. UNEXPECTED > What SAILS IN? > Invading Armada?
Asia Minor > Invaded by Flotilla of Roman Empire > Crashed on Shores
7 Churches in Asia Minor > Recipients of Letter > Sea: Friend and FOE!

“With its constant change and movement the sea well symbolized the seething
cauldron of national and social life out of which the great historical movements
of the world arise.”

Henry Barclay Swete

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first
earth had passed away, and *there was no longer any sea.*” Revelation 21.1
NOT mean NO SURFING LESSONS in Heaven > No Rival to God’s Rule
NO Surprise Attack to USURP God’s Eternal Rule in the New Heaven & Earth

Now God’s Rule is Contested > v. 1 “And I saw a beast coming out of the sea.”

Let us consider this BEAST which emerged from the SEA -

- 1. Inspiration 2. Impressive 3. Influence 4. Imitation
- 5. Insults 6. Identity 7. Invincible

1. Inspiration

v. 1 “And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea.”

CONNECTING LINK with Chapter 12 > Theological Heart of Book
Struggle between Church and World > REALLY between Christ and Satan

Jesus to Satan – “You can’t TOUCH ME!” > “She gave birth to a son, a male
child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was
snatched up to God and to his throne.”

Revelation 12.5

DRAGON unleashes his DISAPPOINTMENT and FURRY on CHURCH
“Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against
the rest of her offspring--those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the
testimony of Jesus.”

Revelation 12.17

Conceives 2 BEASTS > Evil HENCHMEN in Wicked Work of Terror > ch 13

a. Beast Reflects the Dragon

Dragon: “seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads” 12.3
 Beast: “ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns” 13.1

Satan (12.3)

Pattern: Dragon

7 Heads

10 Horns

Crowns on Heads

Assistant (13.1)

Image: Beast

7 Heads

10 Horns

Crowns on Horns

AMBASSADOR of the EVIL ONE > Bearing his HIDEOUS IMAGE

“John is talking about a more than human evil, but it is an evil that reveals itself in human deeds. The modern world, like the ancient, furnishes us with illustrations.”

Leon Morris

b. Beast Rules on behalf of Dragon

v. 2 “The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.”

v. 1 “ten crowns on his horns” > RULE BASED ON POWER AND MIGHT

“The Beast, representing raw power and state persecution, threatens to suppress true witness and compel people to worship.”

Vern S. Poythress

2. Impressive

a. Form > more HIDEOUS than HANDSOME

vs. 1 “He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns”

Grotesque 7-headed Monster > 1 Head Mutilated by the Slash of a Sword

HORNS > Strength > 10 Horns > GREAT STRENGTH

HEADS > Wisdom > 7 Heads > COMPLETELY EVIL WISDOM

CROWNS > Authority > 10 Crowns on Horns > FORCED AUTHORITY

v. 2 “The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion.”

John’s Readers > Daniel 7: 4 Great World Empires > Do we know our OT?

Daniel said: "Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea. "The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle...a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, `Get up and eat your fill of flesh!' "After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule. "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast--terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left...and it had ten horns."

Daniel 7.2-7

Daniel > 4 Historic Kingdoms hostile to the People of God
John > Describes a Gruesome COMPOSITE of Daniel's Vision

1 TERRIBLE BEAST > Fierce Cruelty of the Leopard > Crushing Power of the Bear > Dreaded Roar of Lion > Invincible Grasp of devouring Iron Teeth

b. Function v. 3 "The whole world was astonished and followed the beast."

"The devil took him (Jesus) to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.' "

Matthew 4.8-10

Jesus DOES NOT Correct Satan's Claim > he does hold World's Kingdoms

v. 2 "The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority."
EVIL ONE has God-approved rule over this FALLEN WORLD

"the god of this age"	2 Corinthians 4.4
"the ruler of the kingdom of the air"	Ephesians 2.2
"the whole world is under the control of the evil one"	1 John 5.19

"Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

John 12.31-33

Link between the DEATH of Jesus and World's DELIVERANCE from Satan
Book of Revelation > Final Chapter of the Drama of Christ's Victory

NOW we still feel HEAT of DRAGON'S BREATH > Beast's Wicked Reign
 Human Government > ORDAINED by God & DISORGANIZED by Satan

"It was God who created the institution of human government. The devil never created anything. He could only pervert what was already there. As prince of this world, he took what God had instituted for mankind's welfare and made it an instrument of oppression. It is God's will that there be law and order. It is the devil's achievement that there should so often be bad law and tyrannical order." Michael Wilcock

3. Influence

a. Multitudes

v. 1 "he stood upon the sand of the sea" American Standard Version

Satan's Attempt to SEIZE the Promise of Global Blessing to Abraham:
 "I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as...*the sand on the seashore*. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies" Genesis 22.17

v. 7 "And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language & nation."

"Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth...*they are like the sand on the seashore*."

Revelation 20.7,8

v. 8 "All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast"

TRAGIC COUNTERPART to Global Church > Multitudes of Lost People
 INDIA > Delhi 3 x's more in One City > than entire Population of Kazakhstan
 1 Billion People > 300 Million gods > Small Church of JESUS CHRIST
 Many places in India average ONE CHURCH for every MILLION People!
 Can ICF Reach the more then 1000 Indians in Almaty?

"Come quickly, all you nations from every side...Let the nations be roused... Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe...Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near" Joel 3.11-14

b. Miracles

v. 3 "One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast."

Biggest SHOCK when moved to Uganda in early 1980's > Many wanted deposed Dictator Idi Amin to COME BACK > Bring back Good Old Days

Terrible Bombing in Iraq > Many Long for Good Old Days of Saddam Hussein

Emperor Nero died MANY ROMANS BELIEVED he would Come Back

EVIL from Dragon > DEEP RESIDENCE in Human Hearts & Communities
Cannot be Killed by Bullets or Ballots > It will ALWAYS RISE AGAIN

“The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of *counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders*, and in every sort of *evil that deceives those who are perishing*. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.” 2 Thessalonians 2.9-10

Tremendous Vitality of Beast > Wounded, he Returns with Increased Might

4. Imitation

Devil is NOT a CREATOR, he is a COPY-CAT

“Now Satan is a counterfeiter. He counterfeits God the Father by producing a counterfeit ‘son,’ the Beast. The Beast is clearly the counterfeit of Christ the Son. Satan aspires to be God and to control everything for himself. He has a plan, analogous to the Father’s plan. He will work out his plan through his executor, the Beast.” Vern S. Poythress

“God created man in his own image” Genesis 1.27

Satan created a Beast in his own image.

“on his (Jesus)head are many crowns” Revelation 19.12

“beast...with ten crowns” 13.1

“called Faithful and True... his name is the Word of God” Revelation 19.11,13
“each head a blasphemous name” 13.1

“power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ” Rev 12.10
“dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority” 13.2

You are worthy...because you were slain” Revelation 5.9

“beast seemed to have had a fatal wound” 13.3

"Who among the gods is like you, O LORD?" Exodus 15.11

"Who is like the beast?" 13.4

"All nations will come and worship before you" Revelation 15.4

"Men worshiped the dragon" 13.4

"had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads" 14.1

"on his right hand or on his forehead...the name of the beast" 13.16,17

"from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne" 7.9

"authority over every tribe, people, language and nation" 13.7

"The armies of heaven were following him" 19.14

"the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies" 19.19

Original	Counterfeit	Function
Father	Dragon	Originate
Son	Beast	Execute
Spirit	False Prophet	Witness

Gov't of BEAST > Humans are INVOLVED > ROOT is BEASTIAL
 Tendency is SUBHUMAN > DEHUMANIZING > will be DEFEATED
 God placed all BEASTS under the FEET of His SON

5. Insulting

a. to God v. 1 "on each head a blasphemous name"

7 Heads > COMPLETE Power > COMPLETE HATRED FOR GOD

v. 6 "He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name"

Slander the Name of God > Speak Evil of all that He Is and Stands For

Roman Emperors took Titles of Deity > Names of Blasphemy

Nero > Savior of the World // Domitian > Our Lord and God

"Once the Roman state took on religious significance it was only natural that it should demand worship. Worship of a satanically inspired perversion of secular authority is the ultimate offense against the one true God."

Robert H. Mounce

Allegiance some give their Modern States > NOTHING LESS than WORSHIP

b. to God's People v. 6 "He opened his mouth to blaspheme... and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven."

Ch 7 > 2 Pictures of GOD'S PEOPLE > 144,000 > Security & COMPLETION
 Innumerable Multitude > Global EXENT & CONFIDENCE in GOSPEL
 "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple;
 and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them" Revelation 7.15

EMMANUEL PRINCIPLE throughout Scripture > God is with His People
 New Address of Believer > IN CHRIST > Citizenship IN HEAVEN

"Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing. Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them-- the LORD, who remains faithful forever." Psalm 146.3-6

6. Identity

"The beast is that spirit of imperial power which claims a religious sanction for its gross injustices." Robert H. Mounce

"Many see the beast as a reference to the Roman Empire but this seems to be too simple...there is much more the beast than ancient Rome." Leon Morris

"The beast represents the persecuting power of satan operating in and through the nations of the world and their governments." William Hendriksen

Many call Beast > ANTI-CHRIST – Title A.C. is NOT used in Revelation
 7 Churches PROBABLY familiar with Apostle John's LETTERS
 "Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the *antichrist is coming*, even now *many antichrists have come.*" 1 John 2.18

LAST HOUR > began 2000 years Ago > Now living in LAST DAYS
 Work of Salvation COMPLETED > Promises of God Fulfilled IN CHRIST
 The SAVIOR from Sin has BECOME the SOVEREIGN over the Spheres
 OPPONENTS SENTENCED but still SURVIVING > at Large on Earth

a. Many "even now *many antichrists have come.*" 1 John 2.18
 BEAST appears RESURRECTED > Same HELLISH Policies & Power

“Every age has its ‘death and resurrection’...The communist sees in one place the defeat of his political creed, and then in another its resurrection; and he is confirmed in his belief that it is immortal, it is the truth. At the same time his opponent on the political far right is seeing the same thing with fascism. It may be dead, but it won’t lie down. Even the liberal democracies – perhaps they most of all – lead men to put their faith in the beast by the miracle of his resurrection...So the whole earth follows the beast with wonder, each one having seen how the head he idolizes can die yet rise again. And all whose hope is not ultimately in the blood of the Lamb have no hope except in some human system, to which either expressly or by implication they blasphemously give the name of God.”

Michael Wilcock

b. One Man “you have heard that the *antichrist is coming*” 1 John 2.18

2 Thess > Apostle Paul // 1 John > Apostle John > SIMILAR MESSAGE
DIFFERENT PROBLEMS >

Audience of 1 John wondered > Will Christ EVER Come Again?

Audience of 2 Thessalonians asked > Has Christ ALREADY Come Again!

SAME OPPONENT > DIFFERENT NAMES

1 John: Anti-Christ // 2 Thessalonians: Man of Lawlessness

“the day of the Lord... will not come until the rebellion occurs and the *man of lawlessness* is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God....*For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work*”

2 Thessalonians 2.3-7

BEAST is COMPLEX > Many-Headed Forces of Human Organizational Evil Standing AGAINST Gospel from Pentecost to Parousia > 1st C. to FINAL C. Final Century > Some Lawless Individual WILL BE unique Tool of the Beast

“Every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.”

1 John 4.3

“Do you fix your dreams on the state to restore order and righteousness to a society spinning out of control? To be sure, government is God’s servant, charged to uphold justice, and any semblance of order and uprightness in human courts of power is a blessing far better than our fallen race deserves. But Revelation reminds us of the ugly underbelly of even the best of mere human institutions.”

Dennis Johnson

7. Invincible....*almost*

a. Conquers

v. 7 "He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them."

v. 4 "Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? *Who can make war against him?*"

Thru History of Church > Many TIMES and PLACES > Hope Extinguished
LAMPSTAND of Christ Presence REMOVED > Churches, Cities, Countries

Daniel saw a MIGHTY KING from the NORTH "The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place." 11.36

Whole SECTION of Revelation > God's Answer to Question asked in ch. 6:
"the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

Revelation 6.9,10

GOD SEEKS TO ANSWER > Accept the INEVITABLE vs. 9,10 "He who has an ear, let him hear. If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints."

MILITARY ANNOUNCEMENT > 'Now Hear This!!' BATTLE RAGES
There will be CASUALTIES and CAPTIVITIES
Nothing Here about being RAPTURED OUT OF DANGER

b. Controlled

v. 5 "The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months."

LOOKS like BEAST has CONTROL > But he is UNDER God's CONTROL

Beast NOT as Free & Powerful as Appears > Time-Limit > Clock is Running
PERIOD OF TRIBULATION > Same Period described Three Ways
 42 months > 1260 days > 3 ½ years

“Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that *his time is short.*” Revelation 12.12

“Rampant and raging though they are, the dragon and the beast are on God’s leash throughout the course of this final age and can only go as far as God permits.” Philip Edgcumbe Hughes

Beast is Given Authority > 4 x’s vv. 5 thru 7 > passive phrase “was given”
 God > Ultimate Source of All Power > Reign of Beast is by Divine Permission

c. Christian’s Confidence > POSITIVE Hope in a NEGATIVE PHRASE
 v. 8 “all whose names have not been *written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world*”

WORSHIPPERS of BEAST > Names NOT in God’s Book > Not WASHED
 Long Before there was a Dragon and Beast > Some LOVED by Almighty God

NO MERIT of their OWN > Not VIRTUE, Not SERVICEABLE POTENTIAL
 Because of MYSTERY of GOD’S GOOD PLEASURE > Chosen to Be His

TEXTUAL UNCERTAINTY about phrase “from the Creation of the World”
 Reference to > WRITING Names in God’s Book OR SLAYING of the Lamb

PERHAPS BOTH > Either Way > God’s Eternal Plan for Chosen People in X

“The sovereignty of God underlines the security of the saints and the ultimate futility of all opposition to God.” Vern S. Poythress

God’s Sovereign Rule over All Things

God’s Infallible Purposes in Creation

Fulfillment of God’s Purposes in Christ’s Redemption

Global Church as Center of God’s Plan and Purpose

If you RESIST the DRAGON & His BEAST > May Die > WILL LIVE
“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”
Revelation 12.11

TWO DEFINITE PATHS HERE > Worship the Beast or Worship the Lamb
May God Help us to Make the RIGHT CHOICE

Revelation 13

1. And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.
2. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.
3. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.
4. Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"
5. The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.
6. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.
7. He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.
8. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.
9. He who has an ear, let him hear.
10. If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.
