

21 - THE TWO BEASTS (REVELATION 13:1-18)

I. The Beast Out of the Sea (Revelation 13:1-10)

A. The Introduction of the Beast (Revelation 13:1-2)

1. The Beast Out of the Sea (Revelation 13:1a)

- John sees a beast come out of the sea.
- The fact that the beast comes out from the sea indicates that he is a Gentile.

Biblical Note: The Beast (The Antichrist)

The title Antichrist can mean an enemy of Christ or the one who usurps Christ's name and rights. Most scholars believe the Antichrist will be the ultimate embodiment of what it means to be against Christ. In the last days, a man will arise to oppose Christ and His followers more than anyone else in history. Likely claiming to be the true Messiah, the Antichrist will seek world domination and will attempt to destroy all followers of Jesus Christ and the nation of Israel.

See: Daniel 7:8,20-25; 11:28-37; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Revelation 6:2, 13:5,7; 19:20; 20:10

2. The Beast Described (Revelation 13:1b-2a)

- He is the ruler of the revived Roman Empire.
- The ten heads are ten nations or ten regional governments.

3. The Empowerment of the Beast (Revelation 13:2b)

- This ruler is empowered by Satan himself.

B. The Fatal Wound of the Beast (Revelation 13:3)

- This ruler appears to suffer a mortal wound to his head and is healed.
- The whole earth marveled at his healing as they follow him.

C. The Worship of Satan and the Beast (Revelation 13:4-6)

1. Satan and the Beast are Worshiped (Revelation 13:4)

- The beast and Satan will be worshiped by people.

2. His Role (Revelation 13:5)

- The beast will assume the role of God.

The Prophecy Series: The Book of Revelation

3. His Blasphemy (Revelation 13:6)

- He will speak out and blaspheme the true God and His people.

D. The Worldwide Power of the Beast (Revelation 13:7-8)

1. His War against the Saints (Revelation 13:7a)

- The beast will be allowed to make war against the saints.

2. His Authority over the World (Revelation 13:7b)

- The beast will have authority over the entire world.

3. The Worship of the World (Revelation 13:8)

- All unbelievers in the world will worship the beast.

E. The Exhortation to Hear (Revelation 13:9-10)

1. The Call to Hear (Revelation 13:9)

- The writer calls us to pay attention to what has been written.

2. The Call to Depend upon God's Providence (Revelation 13:10)

- The writer calls the readers to rest in God's providence.

II. The Beast Out of the Earth (Revelation 13:11-18)

A. The Introduction of the Second Beast (Revelation 13:11-12)

1. The Beast out of the Earth (Revelation 13:11a)

- John sees another beast that comes from the earth.
- Some scholars feel that he is a Jew.

Biblical Note: The Second Beast (The False Prophet)

The second beast is the False Prophet whose task it is to point people to the Antichrist. In Revelation 13:11, he appears like a meek and gentle lamb when in reality he has the heart of a destroyer. The focus of the False Prophet is religion as he causes the world to worship the Antichrist. The False Prophet will have the power to perform great miracles. He will have the power to counterfeit the miracles of God, such as calling down fire from heaven. He deceives the people into building an image which can be used as a focal point for worship of the Antichrist. When Jesus Christ returns in his Second Coming, the False Prophet will be immediately judged with the Antichrist and cast into the Lake of Fire.

See: Revelation 13:11-18; 16:13; 19:20; 20:10

The Prophecy Series: The Book of Revelation

2. The Description of the Beast (Revelation 13:11b)

- Some scholars feel that this beast is a religious figure.

3. The Beast's Power and Authority (Revelation 13:12)

- This beast receives his authority from the first beast.
- He causes the whole world to worship the first beast.

B. The Miracles of the Second Beast (Revelation 13:13-15)

1. Fire from Heaven (Revelation 13:13)

- He causes fire to come down from heaven.

2. His Deception (Revelation 13:14a)

- He deceives the entire world with great signs.

3. The Image of the Beast (Revelation 13:14b-15)

- He creates an image of the first beast that is to be worshiped.
- He has those who refuse to worship killed.

C. The Mark of the Beast (Revelation 13:16-18)

1. The Imposition of the Mark (Revelation 13:16)

- The second beast has everyone receive a mark.

Biblical Note: The Mark of the Beast

The mark refers to the Roman use of a seal or mark connected with the emperor which conveyed official sanction. So the Beast will use such a mark to identify those who are loyal to him. Those without the mark will be deemed traitors and boycotted by the commercial system the Beast controls. Those without the mark will die from exposure or starvation or illness as a result of not being able to purchase what they need. Those with the mark will suffer as well (Revelation 14:9-11). Those who receive the mark will suffer the wrath of God in eternity. See: Revelation 13:16,17; 14:9,11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4

2. The Purpose of the Mark (Revelation 13:17)

- This mark allows people to buy and sell.

3. The Number of the Beast (Revelation 13:18)

- The writer warns us to be aware of the significance of the mark.

The Prophecy Series: The Book of Revelation

Biblical Note: The Number of the Beast

The most complex issue regarding the mark of the beast is the number 666. Many observations have been made about this number. However, no one knows exactly what 666 means.