

**Revelation**  
**A Wednesday Night Bible Study**

Lesson #29 — A Continuation of Lesson #28  
2/14/2007

**The Judgment of God, The Great Tribulation, The Great Day of God's Wrath**  
**Chapter Thirteen — Part Two**  
**The Anti-Christ**

As we come to Chapter Thirteen it is interesting to know that some Bible scholars, such as Lenski, see this chapter as providing detailed explanations of those things presented in verses twelve through seventeen of Chapter Twelve.

**Revelation 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.**

“**And I stood upon the sand of the sea**” should be attached to the last verse of the previous chapter according to some scholars. Also, Dr. J. Vernon McGee and some others, say that the best manuscript evidence says “**He (Satan) stood on the sand of the sea.**” The reference is said to be to Satan, the enemy of God, who is described in the last chapter. This would imply that Satan is the one who brings forth this “**beast**” and would be consistent with the context of the passage.

**“and (I) saw a beast rise up out of the sea...”**

John saw “**a beast rise up out of the sea.**” If the view of Dr. McGee is correct then, John saw *Satan bringing forth this “beast”* from out of the sea. In the Scriptures, the “**sea**” represents the Gentile nations and people of this world. This would indicate that this first “**beast,**” the **political “Anti-Christ,”** is seen coming out of some Gentile nation and would likely be a Gentile, not a Jew.

Some different views have already been presented which included those saying that this “**Anti-Christ**” is a kingdom or political system and others saying that this is an individual. When we come to 13:8 we will see that this “**Anti-Christ**” is called a “**he**” which is a translation of **auton**, a personal, singular masculine pronoun. Furthermore, the last verse of Chapter Thirteen gives us evidence that this is a man, an individual: “**Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.**”

**THIS “ANTI-CHRIST” IS A PERSON CONTROLLED BY SATAN.**

He is an individual who has so yielded up the allegiance, ownership and control of himself to Satan that Satan has been allowed to fill him with his demonic personality and power. Of course, he is not the first to do such a thing. In John 13:27, concerning Judas, we are told that “**Satan entered into him.**” This is further explained in Revelation 13:2 where it says “**and the dragon (Satan) gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.**”

It would not be unreasonable to also conclude that this person rules over and represents a kingdom or nation. Such a view would accommodate those positions which interpret this “**beast**” as a political system.

**THIS IS THE MIDPOINT OF THE TRIBULATION PERIOD.**

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Since this is the midpoint of the Great Tribulation Period, it is important for us to note some of the information that God has given us about this time. There are yet three and one-half years to come and those three and one-half years will be starkly different from the first three and one-half years.

**This midpoint begins with the presentation of Anti-Christ and concludes with the victorious and awesome Second Coming of our Lord.** It will be characterized by an intensification of Satan's war against God and His saints as well as an increased severity of the judgments God pours out upon this Christ-rejecting world.

Before we proceed, we will take note of several statements of God that shed light upon Anti-Christ, upon whom many of the events of this three and one-half years are focused. If we try to chronologically arrange each of these events in a sequential order we face confusion and difficulty. What we must recognize is that God seems to have **"stacked"** some of the events because they are concurrent with each other and give us descriptions of them rather than presenting a sequential order of how they all fit together.

**First**, in Revelation 12:12 we have already read that Satan knew that he had **"but a short time"** to vent his anger, and he will pour out his fury upon all on the earth. Having begun the Tribulation Period appearing to be one who brought peace to the earth (6:2), he begins at this point to exhibit his true nature. According to 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 he is **"revealed as the man of sin and the son of perdition and opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."**

**Second**, in relationship to the midpoint, Daniel 9:26 and 27 tells us that he **"...shall come and destroy the city and the sanctuary"** and **"...in the midst of the week (seven year period) he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease...."** And then, in Daniel 11:36 we were told that he **"...shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done."**

**Third**, as we shall see later in Revelation 13:5-7, God apparently allows Satan to think that he rules this world. But, it is only for a short time. You will notice that four times in these verses it is stated, **"there (it) was given unto him,"** meaning that God gave Satan permission to do these things. He could not do any of this were it not for God's permission. God will actually use Satan to accomplish His purposes during this time. God set the boundaries within which Satan had to operate. In Revelation 13:5-7 we read:

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**“And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.”**

**Fourth**, in 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8, which describes the rebellion of Satan, we find a similar emphasis:

*“... the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now **letteth** will **let**, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.”*

In this passage, **“let”** means **“allow.”** God allows Satan to do these terrible, wicked, atrocious things because it fits His purpose. Even Satan functions within God's permissive will.

### **GOD'S USE OF SATAN TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES**

God's use of Satan in this manner reminds us of how God used the Babylonians to discipline and punish His people, Israel. When God's plans had been accomplished, He then punished and destroyed Babylon. In like maner, God has often used those who are vile and wicked to do His wishes, but He always remains in control. While God allows Satan to do things his way, it is only for a predetermined period of time and for a predetermined purpose. God **“lets”** and Satan functions within God's will to accomplish God's purposes.

**Fifth**, in Chapter Eleven, we were introduced to the **“two witnesses,” two prophets** of God, who had begun their divinely protected and empowered ministry at the beginning of the Tribulation Period. We know when their ministry began because they prophesied for **“a thousand two hundred and threescore days”** and **“when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them”** (11:7). That **“beast”** is the same one we are reading about in 13:1 who was seen **“rising up out of the sea,”** where **“the bottomless pit”** apparently is also located.

**“having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy”**

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The description of the **“beast”** rising up out of the sea reminds us of Daniel Seven. When we turn back to what God told Daniel in that chapter we realize an understanding of Daniel Seven is very helpful, if not necessary, to an understanding of Revelation Thirteen.

In Daniel 7:7-8, 23-24 we read:

*“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.”*

*“Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.*

*And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.”*

In addition, we discover in Revelation 17:12 that God identifies this **“beast”** that has the **“ten horns”**:

**“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.”**

In Daniel Seven, in the vision God gave to Daniel about the future of the world, the verses quoted above (7:7-8,23-24), refer to the Roman Empire. In Daniel's vision, the **“little horn”** in 7:8 and the **“...another (that) shall arise after them ....”** is a prophetic picture of **“Anti-Christ,”** the **“beast”** that is seen in 13:1.

The **“ten horns”** are the **“ten kings”** who rule over the tenfold division of the Roman Empire in the time of the Great Tribulation. This meaning of the **“ten horns”** is confirmed in Revelation 17:12; **“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.”** The **“little horn,”** the **“Anti-Christ,”** comes into power by first putting down three of these rulers and afterward dominating the other seven.

The **“seven heads”** are not so easily identified. Some have speculated that they are seven identifiable rulers of the Roman Empire, while others see them as seven great nations of antiquity.

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All “**seven heads**” are guilty of blasphemy against God, i.e., saying things insulting to God and making themselves as gods. In the various passages referred to previously are a number of examples of this “**blasphemy**” as well as what we find in Daniel 11:36-37:

*“And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.”*

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

**Though Anti-Christ is a man, his nature is so inhuman that God has used strange symbolism to describe his nature.** We now find more unusual descriptions of him in verse two. Without any question this is the wierdest creature to ever be on this earth.

In Daniel Seven we read about Daniel's vision of the four major empires that exercised power over all of the earth which were presented as four beasts (Daniel 7:3-8). **The first beast** was like “*a lion with eagle's wings*” and represented Babylon. **The second beast** was “*like to a bear*” and represented the Medo-Persian Empire. **The third beast** was “*like a leopard which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl ... also four heads*” and represented the Graeco-Macedonian Empire. **The fourth beast** was “*dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly and had great iron teeth and ... ten horns*” and represented the Roman Empire.

Here, in 13:2, the “**beast**” that John sees rising up out of the sea is a wierd composite of all of the beasts which Daniel saw in his vision, indicating that he combines characteristics from each of them. The reason for this is that Satan exercised influence and domination over the empires seen in Daniel's vision and even more completely controls this “**beast.**” To emphasize this God tells us that “**the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.**” This beast will literally be the incarnation of Satan in this person as he gives to Satan the full use of his being. This person who becomes Anti-Christ will be able to exercise all of Satan's considerable power and authority over man, which is surpassed only by the power and authority of God Himself.