

The Book of Revelation
Revelation 13:1-10 (NIV)
“The Beast Out of the Sea”

Introduction

The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. 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. 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 filled with wonder and followed the beast. People 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 wage war against it?”

The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. It was given power to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast — all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.

Whoever has ears, let them hear.

**“If anyone is to go into captivity,
into captivity they will go.**

**If anyone is to be killed with the sword,
with the sword they will be killed.”**

This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people.

Chapter 12 of Revelation closes with the Dragon (Satan) standing on the shore and summoning the beast out of the sea. The sand here most likely is a reference to humanity or the nations, over which Satan has dominion as the “prince of this world” (**John 14:30**). Multiple times in scripture sands are used metaphorically to be nations or people groups. God promises Abraham that his descendants will be as numerous as the **“sands in the sea” (Genesis 22:17)**. Now, here in this passage we see Satan standing amongst the nations and summoning his beast to lead them. The sea here is best understood as the abyss, a place where the worst of the worst of Satan’s demonic hosts are chained (**Luke 8:31; Revelation 9:1; 2 Peter 2:4**).

The beast that Satan summons is none other than the man of lawlessness (**2 Thessalonians 2:3**), otherwise known as the Antichrist. He will rise to power as the leader of the ten nation confederation that rises as a remnant of the Roman empire. This league of nations will be the vehicle by which Satan’s final assault will be unleashed upon the people of God. Let us look to the scripture to get a better understanding of just how frightening and horrible this beast will truly be. The Antichrist will be brutal, charismatic, and shockingly arrogant, desiring to be worshipped as God. He is a man of authority, arrogance, and animosity.

"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. He will show no regard for the gods of his ancestors or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. Daniel 11:36-37

His Authority

The Devil empowers his Antichrist with his own power and persona. As we read the description of the beast, we find Him to be seven-headed, as well as, having ten horns, much like the depiction of Satan himself in the previous passage. The number of crowns have increased from seven to ten to place emphasis on the beast's control of the European confederation of ten nations. This beast shall be the final emperor of the final empire. All six of the world's previous empires; Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome were merely opening acts to the empire of the Antichrist. He will preside over the single most brutal regime the world has ever known, because at this stage in human history, Satan is given complete authority (**vs. 2**).

Just imagine a world controlled by a demon-possessed, hate-filled, dictator, who operates completely and totally at the behest of Satan himself. Words cannot express just how brutal and horrifying the last three and a half years on earth will be before the return of Christ. As evil as Hitler was in his time, at least there were forces that endeavored to restrain him. The beast will have no such impediments to slow down his reign of terror. As Daniel has warned, **"he will do as he pleases."**

It is also worth noting that one of the heads of the beast was fatally wounded and then miraculously healed (**vs. 3**). This suggests that the Antichrist will be assassinated and then rise from the dead (either through trickery or through miraculous power). This will cause the whole world to marvel after the beast as Satan gains world domination through his resurrection. Just as the Son of God died and rose again, this Son of Satan will die and rise, causing this demonic counterfeit to convince the world that he truly is a god. Everyone, **except God's elect**, will blindly follow him to their destruction. As they give their worship to the beast, they are truly worshipping Satan himself (**vs. 4**), thus for a short time Satan receives the world's worship. The very thing he has long desired.

**How you have fallen from heaven,
morning star, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth,
you who once laid low the nations!
You said in your heart,
"I will ascend to the heavens;
I will raise my throne
above the stars of God;
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.
I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High."**

Isaiah 14:12-14

His Arrogance

As to the personality of the Anti-Christ, the book of *Daniel* actually gives us more insight than anywhere else. **Daniel 11:36** says of the Antichrist; **"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."** This verse is very telling of just how self-consumed this evil despot will be.

Around 175 B.C. a tyrant arose to the throne of the Seleucid empire (part of the once mighty Greek empire) named Antiochus Epiphanes. His real name was Mithradates. He renamed himself Antiochus Epiphanes (God Manifest), because he believed himself a god. He actually changed the image of Zeus (Greek god) on the empire's money to look more like himself. He was a brutal dictator and especially hard on the Jewish people, because he wanted all the world to be Greek and submit to his lordship. At one point Antiochus actually went into the Jewish temple and sacrificed a pig on the altar to Zeus. This was an abomination of the worst kind to the Jewish people. He then went on to murder the priests by forcing pork down their throats and choking them to death. Antiochus Epiphanes was a preview of just how cruel and arrogant the Antichrist will be. Convinced that He is god, he will not tolerate any worship given to another. Therefore, he will destroy with murderous rage any who give their lives to Jesus during the Great Tribulation period.

The Antichrist will also be cunning, as well as, a powerful and persuasive speaker. The book of *Daniel* tells us that he will, **“speak boastfully” (Daniel 7:8)**, and will **“speak against The Most High and oppress His holy people and try to set the set times and laws” (Daniel 7:25)**. This means that not only will he be a braggart, but he will be so persuasive that he will attempt to change the traditional Jewish worship and cause the people to worship him instead.

Not only will he be a gifted orator, but he will also be physically attractive. Daniel tells us that he will look more imposing or attractive than his peers (**Daniel 7:20**). This combination of good looks, as well as, clever charisma and oratory prowess will make the Antichrist appealing to the masses, who are looking for someone to lead and deliver them through the perilous times of the tribulation period. Even today, it seems that more politicians are elected based upon their appearance and speaking abilities rather than the content of their character. For we live in a superficial world driven more by vanity than wisdom.

Daniel also says of the Antichrist, **“he will show no regard for the gods of his fathers, neither the desire of women, nor any god, shall he regard; for he shall magnify himself above all” (Daniel 11:37)**. This passage has led many to believe that the Antichrist will be an apostate Jew, rejecting the faith of his own people. Some also believe that he will be homosexual (neither the desire of women) based upon this verse. These are speculative interpretations, of course, and the verse could really mean that he will show no regard for anyone's religion. It is interesting to note, however, that many of the world's empirical leaders were also sexually deviant (Alexander the Great and Hitler to name a few).

It should come as not surprise to Christians that someone who is consumed by evil would be sexually immoral as well. Why should the Antichrist be any different? Of course, these days few people are willing to stand against immorality. We are becoming more and more tolerant of sexual perversions of all kinds; pornography, adultery, fornication, and homosexuality are out of control in this world, and anyone who stands for the Word of God is labeled an intolerant bigot. Just imagine what it will be like in the kingdom of the Antichrist, when the Church with its moral influence has been raptured.

His Animosity

The great empires of this world have one thing in common; they have been cruel and despicable to the nation of Israel. The Antichrist is described in **vs. 2** as the combination of a leopard, a bear, and a lion. This is a look backward in time to the previous world empires. Their descriptions are found in the book of *Daniel*. The leopard is the Greek empire; the bear, the Medo-Persian empire; and the lion is the Babylonian empire. The Antichrist will be the king of the revived Roman empire, which is a combination and culmination of them all; Satan's final weapon, forged and crafted through the centuries for one purpose. The destruction of Israel.

Daniel tells us that the Antichrist will convince the Jewish people that he wants to protect them, in order to entice them into a peace covenant with him (**Daniel 9:27**). After three and a half years have passed, he will then enter the Jewish temple and set up an image of himself to be worshipped. This is the “abomination of desolation” spoken of in **Daniel 9:27**. This is reminiscent of Antiochus Epiphanes. This evil tyrant will put to death anyone who is unwilling to worship him, and there will be nothing anyone can do to stop it. No higher court to appeal to, no nation to intervene and stop the slaughter.

Revelation 13:10 says, **“If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go: If anyone is to be killed with a sword, with the sword he will be killed.”** Some scholars have interpreted this as a literal command for those who are believers during the great tribulation, exhorting them to endure the persecution without retaliation just as Christ endured his torture and crucifixion so that He could bring glory to God The Father. While I believe this *could* be the case, I am more inclined to believe that it simply means that retaliation against the Antichrist will be utterly impossible, for his power will be so vast that none *but God* could stop him. The Antichrist will be the supreme ruler of the earth, and the people of God will either have to flee or die (**Matthew 24:9-24**).

The beast who comes out of the sea will be the most horrible, evil man who has ever lived on the earth. Energized and empowered by Satan, he will exalt himself above everything else and demand all the world to worship him. He will have a special demonic hatred for the nation of Israel and will do everything in his power to remove them from the face of the earth. He will be a lawless man of Authority, Arrogance, and Animosity. The time of the beast will be a time of unimaginable and unspeakable horror, but his time will be short (**Matthew 24:22**). Evil will fail, and Jesus will reign. Even so, come Lord Jesus! **Revelation 22:20**.

Truth!!!