

Revelation Step by Step 8

Chapter 13

The wrath of the dragon upon those Laodicean, but Commandment keeping Christians mentioned in Chapter 12:17, is now depicted as Satan giving power to the Beast who rises up out of the sea of humanity. This is the emergence of the Beast now fully empowered and spiritually commanded by Satan, as never before, at the commencement of the **Great Tribulation** (as against the ‘Tribulation of those days’, the first 5 Seals). 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.](#)’ The ten horns are the ten ‘kingdoms’, though the crowns speak of despotic power.

Satan is shown as giving power to the various 7 empires which have dominated the world (Daniel 7:1-6), concluding with the four heads of the re-incarnated Roman Empire. Several of these rulers lived long enough to have temples erected to their worship – hence the ‘names of blasphemy.’

The final Roman Beast who persecutes the remnant Christians who refuse to worship him is ‘wounded to death’, verse 3, ‘[I saw that one of the heads of the beast seemed wounded beyond recovery—but the fatal wound was healed! The whole world marvelled at this miracle and gave allegiance to the beast.](#)’ NLT.

He is brought back to life as a diabolical counterpart to Christ, and that may have inspired him to claim to be our Saviour. 2 Thessalonians 2:4, ‘[who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.](#)’ Revelation 13:5-6, ‘[And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority **for forty-two months**. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.](#)’

Think about this. If the Beast is given 42 months = 3½ years, at this stage, *after* he has invaded Israel, *after* the abomination of desolation, *after* he has lost one army chasing the Saints and has now turned to persecute the remnant, *after* the first 6 Seals, then how can the **total** Tribulation be just 3½ years? Of course, it can’t!

The fact that the Beast is given 42 months [only] reveals that Satan is limited in his power and that God determines the conclusion of his reign, though it is a world-wide one, verse 7, ‘[Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation.](#)’ Interesting then, that what we see at the moment, with China boasting that it will soon be the dominant world power, will never come to pass.

Nevertheless, all mankind is drawn into the Beast's worship except those whose lives are dedicated to their Saviour, whose own life was dedicated to them from the very start of God's Plan for mankind, verse 8,

Weymouth New Testament:

'And all the inhabitants of the earth will be found to be worshipping him: every one whose name is not recorded in the Book of Life--the Book of the Lamb who has been offered in sacrifice ever since the creation of the world.' For most of those Christians still on earth, it will cost their lives.

Verse 9, 'If anyone has an ear, let him hear:' Only the truly repentant will believe and carry out what is written in this book! How true!

Verse 10 may be understood to convey to the sufferers of persecution that their suffering will not go unavenged, 'He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.'

Verse 11 speaks of the arrival of the False Prophet.

Then I saw **another beast** rising out of the earth. This beast had two horns like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon. And this beast exercised all the authority of the first beast and caused the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose mortal wound had been healed.

And the second beast **performed great signs** to cause even fire from heaven to come down to earth in the presence of the people. Because of the signs it was given to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived those who dwell on the earth, telling them to make an image to the beast that had been wounded by the sword and yet had lived. The second beast was permitted to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship it to be killed.

He is the religious power, probably a Pope, empowered by Satan to deceive the world with his awesome wonders, and repeat the cruel persecutions of the Inquisition.

What we are seeing now with Covid 19 and the travel and movement controls we are having to accept, could be just the first stage of what we read in verses 16-18,

'And the second beast required all people small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark—the name of the beast or the number of its name. Here is a call for wisdom: Let the one who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and that number is 666.'

Satan is a subtle and devious spirit who plays on the greed for *power and control* in the elites, for the purpose of destroying the Plan of God for mankind. These remnant Christians in the Great Tribulation will have just two choices. Worship the beast, or death. Verse 15, 'And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.'

When you think about it, this indicates that the mark and the image etc., must have been around through the ages since Nimrod, for it is a system of dominion and rulership that is under discussion, one seen in Babylon, Rome, even in the Roman church and worst still, in the Churches of God!

Revelation 20:4, ‘Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had **not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands**. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.’

We should remember though, that those who take part in the First Resurrection at the 6th Seal are no longer on Earth by this time, for the Beast does not come to worldwide control until the Great Tribulation, in the second half of the 7 years. They are already on the Sea of Glass in Heaven. Revelation 15:2, ‘And I saw what appeared to be a **sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands**.’ Many have fled the Church of God to escape the image of the Beast and become the scattered faithful! Ironically HWA did that himself before introducing it again to gain control of the WCOG!

A ‘mark’ is an identifying sign. Exodus 31:13,17, “You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, ‘Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a **sign** between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you,” “It is a **sign forever** between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.”

The keeping of God’s Sabbaths [Plural, including the High Sabbaths of Leviticus 23] is a part of the true worship of God. The mark of the Beast is the worship of the Beast, and if it were a computer chip or a tattoo, it would not be found in any of God’s ancient people – just those of this generation, but the ancients also had to resist the worship of the Beast, the Babylonian system of idolatrous worship, to have that correct relationship with God, or they too would miss the FIRST RESURRECTION.

Nevertheless, Revelation 13:15-18 is more than just avoiding worshipping the Beast and keeping God’s Sabbaths, for that alone, would not bring the penalties of verse 17 ‘The second beast was permitted to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship it to be killed. And the second beast required all people small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, 17 **so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark—the name of the beast or the number of its name**.

Here is a call for wisdom: Let the one who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and that number is 666.’

The image of the Beast is the Babylonian Papacy, and its daughter churches. Its mark is Sunday, and the other false religious festivals, but what the other details mean, we will have to wait to find out. In the end we must avoid being in the Great Tribulation, Revelation 12:17, **'Then**

(after the Saints have been taken to the Sea of Glass) the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.' They will face the worst persecution the world has ever seen! Why? They were Laodicean in the compromising disloyalty of their unbelief, Revelation 3:15-16, **"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth."**

We should acknowledge that although the Saints in the resurrection at the 6th Seal do not have to face the choice between life or death during the Great Tribulation, some of them do give their lives in God's service at the 5th Seal, Daniel 11:33,35. **'And those of the people who understand shall instruct many (the broadcast from Jerusalem) yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.'**

However, it is only after the start of those last 42 months, or 3½ years, that the Beast will institute the worldwide laws we read of in Revelation 13:16-18.

Finally, an interesting point. Have you ever counted back 3½ years from the Feast of Trumpets, to see *when* the first Resurrection takes place?

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