

The Second Beast Comes Up Out of the Earth

Revelation 13:11-18

Revelation 13:11-18 - *“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. ¹² And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. ¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. ¹⁵ He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. ¹⁶ He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. ¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.”*

Background Notes

In the first half of this chapter, a beast coming out of the sea was described. We mentioned that the sea most likely represents the “sea of Gentile nations,” and that this first beast of chapter 13 represents an end time political ruler who will head up the revived Roman Empire of the last days. The term “revived Roman Empire” is used because we have a prophetic description of a similar beast in Daniel 7. Four beasts are presented in Daniel 7, and when these four beasts are compared with the four empires represented by the image in Daniel 2, it becomes quite clear that the fourth beast of Daniel 7 represents the Roman Empire.

The fourth beast of Daniel 7 has a very similar description to the beast out of the sea in Revelation 13. In Daniel 7, the fourth beast (Rome) with its ten horns continues right on until the time of the end, because it is the Lord Himself who will conquer this beast when He sets up His kingdom on this earth. Daniel 7:23 - *“The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces. ²⁴ The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings. ²⁵ He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. ²⁶ But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever. ²⁷ Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.”*

So, we use the term “revived Roman Empire” to refer to the end time stage of the fourth beast of Daniel 7 and the first beast of Revelation 13. The little horn that came up among the ten horns in Daniel 7 refers to the end-time leader of the revived Roman Empire. He is the one who will suffer a mortal wound and will be healed. Revelation 13:3 *“And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.”* And verse 12: *“And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”*

This end-time leader is the infamous ruler who (according to Daniel 9:27) will make a seven-year covenant of peace with the Jewish people. However, he will break the treaty in the middle of the seven years, and he will demand worship for himself. The last 3 ½ years of the seven-year period are the 42 months of the Revelation 13:5, the time period that is called the Great Tribulation. This notorious end-time ruler will be motivated and inspired by Satan. He will kill many believers at that time, as we see here in Revelation 13. But although this first beast will demand to be worshiped as a god, he is only a man. In Scripture, the number that represents “man” is the number “6,” but this evil ruler will be identified by the number of man-intensified: “666.”

In verse 11 we have the description of the second beast of Revelation 13 – the beast out of the earth or land.

Doctrinal Points

1. The beast out of the earth is the “False Prophet.”

The two beasts of Revelation 13 are very closely related in their evil ways. The first beast will give authority to the second beast, and the second beast will direct worship to the first beast. In fact, together these beasts and the dragon form an “evil trinity.”

This second beast of Revelation 13 is often known as the “false prophet,” because of other passages in Revelation where the first beast is seen. Revelation 16:13 - *“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.”* Revelation 19:20 - *“Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.”* Revelation 20:10 - *“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”*

Notice from verse 13 that this second beast will be able to perform great signs, including bringing fire down out of heaven to this earth. This display of supernatural power, of course, will not be from God! This will be evil supernatural power, but many people at that time will be deceived because they see supernatural signs.

In verse 14 we see that this false prophet will direct his followers to make an image of the first beast, and he will be able to give life-like characteristics to the image. He will even be able to cause the image to speak: *“And he deceives those who*

dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived” (v14). No doubt these sign and wonders will be done through satanic power.

One reason why the second beast of Revelation 13 is called the “false prophet” is that he directs worship to the first beast. Most likely this image of the first beast will be set up in the Temple area in Jerusalem, and thus it will be an essential part of the coming “abomination of desolation standing in the holy place” that was predicted by the prophet Daniel. Our Lord also referred to this “abomination of desolation” in His Olivet Discourse about the future in Matthew 24:15. Verse 15 says that anyone who doesn’t worship the life-like image of the beast will be put to death.

In addition, everyone will be required to receive “the mark of the beast” on his or her right hand or forehead. Anyone who does not have this “mark” will not be allowed to buy or sell. We don’t know exactly what the mark is, or what the name of the beast will be, or how it will be checked. Maybe it will be some kind of computer chip implanted under the skin and scanned periodically to check a person’s “credit rating”! The mark and the name of the beast are related to the number 666, which is the number or symbol of the first beast.

The beast that comes out of this earth will enforce submission and direct worship to the first beast of Revelation 13. The beast out of the earth is the “false prophet.”

2. The beast out of the earth may be the “Antichrist.”

Question: Which beast of Revelation 13 is the “Antichrist”? Answer: Both of the beasts are anti-Christ – with a small “a.” Both beasts are anti-Christ or against Christ – but either one could be called “the Antichrist.”

The biggest point in favor of the first beast being the Antichrist is the fact that he will accept the worship that will be directed to him by the false prophet. The biggest point in favor of the second beast being the Antichrist is the fact that he will possess horns like a lamb. Verse 11: *“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.”*

Furthermore, the second beast will be a religious figure, whereas the first beast will be a political figure. The Jewish people would more readily be deceived into receiving a religious figure than a political figure as the Antichrist. The phrase “out of the earth” may be translated “out of the Land.” If so, this phrase may represent the Land of Israel. Thus, the second beast or false prophet may be Jewish, which would certainly be more appropriate for the Antichrist, and he would be more readily accepted by the Jewish people.

Most commentators agree that “the man of sin passage” in 2 Thessalonians 2 refers to the Antichrist. Some commentators say “the man of lawlessness” in 2 Thessalonians 2 is the first beast of Revelation 13, but some say he is the second beast! We can’t be sure. The beast out of the earth may be the “Antichrist.”

Practical Application

Don't be deceived by signs and wonders!

Verse 14 says that those who dwell on the earth will be deceived by the miraculous signs that will be performed by the false prophet of the future. Specifically, this verse refers to the future time of the Tribulation.

At the present time, however, it's very possible to be deceived by signs and wonders. Counterfeit signs and wonders may be performed by people who use the name of Jesus, but who are not receiving power from God! Beware – even believers can be deceived!

Listen to what the Lord said about those deceivers on the day of judgment in Matthew 7:21-23 *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”*

This verse does not mean that all signs and wonders are counterfeit and are performed only by charlatans and deceivers - but many are! Don't be deceived by the signs performed by false prophets! Don't be deceived by signs and wonders!