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First Baptist Church ~ Covington, Louisiana

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Revelation 13:1-10

Revelation 12-14 describe the main characters who oppose Christ

- *the dragon - Revelation 12:1-17*
- *the beast out of the sea – Revelation 13:1-10*
- *the beast out of the earth – Revelation 13:11-18*
- *Babylon – Revelation 14:8*
- *And those who have the mark of the beast – Revelation 14:9-11*

[1] And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems upon its horns and a blasphemous name upon its heads.

This passage is part of the cycle of Revelation 12-14. It describes the dragon's (Satan) attempt to destroy Christ. When he is unable to destroy Christ, he pursues the church (the woman) (Revelation 12:13-14). When he is unable to destroy the church, he pursues individuals (Revelation 12:17) "who keep the commandments" and "bear testimony to Jesus".

Revelation 12:17 Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and bear testimony to Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

Revelation 12:17 helps explain what is happening in Revelation 13. The beast rising out of the sea is the dragon's helper "and to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority."

The beast out of the sea is one of the instruments Satan uses. In apocalyptic literature, the sea is a way of picturing human government.

The beast is like the dragon in that it has ten horns and seven heads.

Many believe that the beast represents the persecuting power of human government. This was manifested in John's day by the Roman Empire and its terrible persecution. It will be fully realized during the reign of the Antichrist.

The heads and horns and ten crowns represent his boastful self-importance and his persecuting power.

Daniel 7 seems to be the "guide" for this teaching – using the leopard – bear – lion to describe successive world empires that came and went.

[2] And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.

[3] One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth followed the beast with wonder.

Notice that "one of the heads seemed to have a mortal wound that had healed." The healing of the wound led the whole earth to follow the beast with wonder.

Does this picture the rise and fall of governments through history?

[4] Men worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

Both the dragon and the beast claim for themselves the worship that belongs to God alone.

[5] And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months;

Verses 5-7: The beast has a hatred of God and the things of God. This is evident in every era of persecution.

[6] it opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

This verse seems to indicate that anti-Christian government will reach such strength at the end of the gospel age (42 months – Revelation 13:5) that Christianity will seem to be non-existent.

[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 tongue and nation,

[8] and all who dwell on earth will worship it, every one whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slain.

"All" refers to those whose names are not written in the Book of Life.

There will be those who are faithful to Christ in the very worst of times.

[9] If any one has an ear, let him hear:

This phrase was used with the Seven Churches to emphasize hearing and obeying God. In this chapter, it represents understanding that even in the worst of times, it is not Satan, but God who reigns supreme.

[10] If any one is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if any one slays with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

This saying comes from Jeremiah 15:2, indicating judgment.

The first line describes the certainty of tribulation.

The second line describes the retribution of God to avenge His people.

This encourages our endurance and faith no matter what takes place.

The questions are these:

- 1. Is your name written in the Book of Life?*
- 2. Are you persevering in difficult times?*