

Revelation
Chapter 13:1-10
“The Beast From the Sea”

All scripture references are from the NASU unless otherwise noted

Calvary Chapel Fellowship of Enid
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Teaching: I know some of us might be a bit rusty since we've had a few weeks off, so I'd love to do our eschatological memory check, but we're going to have to bump it back to next week for the sake of time ... but be ready for it then.

As a reminder ... John's in Heaven ... at least, spiritually. He's receiving a heavenly vision from the Lord and conveying that to us. He's been shown the glories of Heaven as the church is there enjoying that seven year honeymoon with our bridegroom, Jesus Christ and he's being shown the season of hell on earth known as The Tribulation.

The Seven Seal Judgments have come to pass and all Seven Trumpet Judgments have sounded, but as of our entry into **chapter 13**, the wrath associated with the Seventh Trumpet has not yet begun. Earth has heard the Trumpet and knows it's coming, but is on hold by God's sovereign will. In fact, earth remains on hold until **chapter 16**.

Meanwhile, John is taking advantage of the moment to describe to us a fuller picture of the scene and that's where we'll be picking it up.

Last time we were together, I told you that, between **chapters 12 and 16**, we would be introduced to 6 characters ... identified only by their nicknames here in **Revelation**, but all significant players in the end times. I listed for you:

- The Woman
- The Dragon
- The Male Child
- The Beast that comes from the Sea
- The Beast that comes from the Land
- The Believing Remnant

So far we've looked at The Woman, who, as you will recall, speaks of the nation of Israel, the Dragon we are very plainly told is Satan and the Male Child, is Jesus Christ.

This morning ... we will meet The Beast that comes from the Sea ...

So ... let's jump in and see what John has to share with us about these future events ...

Verse 1a:

Q. Who's the dragon again? – Satan ... and there he is on the beach ...

Verses 1-2: So as the Beast comes out of the Sea ... Satan passes to him these things listed; his power, his throne and his authority.

Verse 3:

The Greek word for “wounded” here is [sphazo (sfad'-zo)], and it means to butcher or slaughter and the word “fatal” is [thanatos (than'-at-os)], which means literal death.

Verses 4-5:

Q. Forty-two months is how long? – 3 and ½ years or 1,260 days or time, times and half a time ... all 3 and ½ years.

Q. And what 3 and ½ years is being described here? – The last 3 and ½ years of the Tribulation Period. That which is officially known as the Great Tribulation. That's the duration of the Beast's reign.

Verses 6-7: Okay ... let's see if we can make some sense out of all this ...

Q. The first question is who is this fourth nicknamed character ... this Beast that Comes From the Sea? – We'll you are already familiar with him from **chapter 6** ... let's read that passage together again ...

Rev 6:1 Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come." 2 I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

Q. The rider on the white horse ... who remembers who that is? – None other than the Antichrist.

Now – forgive me, but I'm going to give you a couple of semi-educated interpretations here and I'm going to do it without full explanation for now because it's a topic that we will be dealing with all the way from here through **chapter 17** ... so more to come, but for now ... hear me out and then decide if you think it agrees with the scriptures as we wade through the **next several chapters**.

Here's the thing ... the Antichrist comes on the scene in **chapter 6** as the awaited hero ... the conqueror. And yet ... here we see him making another entrance onto the scene as The Beast that comes from the Sea.

Q. Why? – I think ... because he's been dead. I think because he was assassinated. I think that's what the fatal head wound is all about.

Remember his entry! He's the man on the white horse. He comes in with a bow, but no arrows to let people know that he's capable, but that he has no desire for war.

He even brokers the most difficult peace treaty in history – peace between Israel and the world. And yet we also know that 3 and ½ years after his heroic entry ... he's setting himself in the Temple of God, demanding to be worshiped as god and putting to death all who won't swear allegiance to him.

Q. What happened? Did someone flip his switch from good and bad? – In a way ... I think so.

I'm not sure that the Antichrist knows that he's the Antichrist when he comes on the scene.

It may be similar to Judas Iscariot who threw the blood money at the feet of those he'd sold himself to (**Matt 27:3**) and cried ... "What have I done!" It does not appear that Judas understood the depth of evil that he was committing and the same thing may be true of the Antichrist.

Q. So what happened? – What if this dynamic and loved, but unsaved, world leader gets assassinated and like all unsaved people ... he goes to Hell?

Q. But what if, rather than keeping him in Hell, Satan inhabits him and sends him back to earth for the final 3 and ½ years of the Tribulation? – Now he's a different guy. Evil to the core, but supernaturally empowered and because of that ... more revered than ever.

Now ... I know that I'm throwing you a curve ball here and offering you very little scriptural evidence for it, but hang in there with me and at the end of our study ... you can decide if I've made the case.

Now ... this Antichrist appears in the scriptures under many names and I want you to look at those with me so that we'll be able to recognize him as we read. I have 10 names for you ...

Daniel refers to him as:

- 1.** The Little Horn (**7:8**)
- 2.** The King of Fierce Countenance (**8:23**)
- 3.** The Prince that Shall Come (**9:26**)
- 4.** The Willful King (**11:3**)

In **Zechariah** he is called:

5. The idol shepherd (**11:17**)

In **2 Thessalonians** he's known as:

6. The Man of Sin (**2:3**)

7. The Son of Perdition (**2:3**)

8. The Wicked One (**2:8**)

And then John refers to him for the first time in **1 John** as:

9. The Antichrist (**2:18**)

And ... a note here ... keep in mind that the title "Antichrist" does not mean "opposes Christ" although he certainly will oppose Christ ... that's not what his title means. It literally means "instead of Christ". He is the alternative to the true Messiah, which is why John said in ...

1 John 2:18 ... antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared ...

But it's in **Revelation** that we find the one name used of him more often than any other and that is:

10. The Beast (26 times)

Now let's consider together what we're told of this Beast's physical appearance:

1. Ten horns:

Horns as you may recall from a recent study, speak symbolically of power. And within this context it seems to be speaking of political power ... probably on a national level ... ten powerful nations or governments.

And, of course, many see within this, the fulfillment of the word of Daniel the Prophet who explained to King Nebuchadnezzar how the day would come when there would be 10 world-ruling nations or governments (**Dan 7**).

And when we get to **Revelation 17**, we will spend a bit of time looking carefully at its message which seems to indicate to us that those 10 horns or ten ruling governments are in some way birthed in Rome. A revival, if you will, of the Great Roman Empire.

2. Seven Heads:

Which **Revelation 17** tells us is related to wisdom ... not godly wisdom, but evil wisdom. As we will see, he quickly learns how to win over the people by giving their flesh ... their carnal natures all that it desires. By that he gains power over them just as Satan has since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden.

3. Ten Diadems:

These, of course, speak of authority ... his dominion over the ten kingdoms of the world. Again, **Revelation 17** tells us that those 10 ruling nations will all bow to his authority. They will be his puppets.

So in these first three physical descriptions we see what Satan gives to him ... power, thrones and authorities. But John further describes this Beast as having ...

4. Blasphemous names on his seven heads ...

5. And a truly beastly appearance with the body of a ... leopard and feet like a bear and the mouth of a lion.

Now I'm sure you realize that this is not likely a real creature with all these physical features, but is symbolic of a beast of a being. All these physical features not designed to give us a picture of his physical appearance so much as his underlying character ... fast, powerful, crushing and thoroughly evil.

And for those of you who desire to dig into this a bit deeper, I would refer you back again to **Daniel chapter 7** because Daniel is given there a vision that parallels what John is seeing and it certainly sheds more light on this difficult passage.

We'll be taking a look at that corporately when we discuss **Revelation 17**, but if you're the overachiever type ... you can dive in ahead of that study if you like.

6. But now we come to this all important head wound. It's a healed wound, but one that the text very plainly states was fatal ...

Rev 13:3 I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed ...

As I shared at the outset, I have a suspicion that this head wound is why we are seeing the re-appearance of the Antichrist here as he comes up out

of the sea.

And when we get to the **14th verse of this chapter**, we learn that the wound came from a sword or a weapon in general and that he was indeed resurrected from the dead.

And even further information is tucked into **Zechariah 11:17**, referring to him as the “pastor or shepherd of idols”, it indicates that as a result of this fatal head wound, he will be blinded in his right eye and will lose the use of his right arm ...

Zech 11:17 Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened. KJV

And some have proposed that the, so called, Mark of the Beast which **verse 16 of this chapter** says is to be received only on the right hand or the forehead is to be administered in those specific location as some means of identifying with the Antichrist and the wounds that he’s received.

And you can imagine how such a thing could make the career of a public figure in today’s society. Wounded but still serving – that’ll make him even more of a hero.

And Satan, of course, is the great imitator. He’s a copy cat. And in this case, he’s trying to copy the redemptive act of Jesus Christ. Suffering a fatal injury and yet living again.

Again ... more on that topic when we get to **chapter 17** ...

But for now ... remembering his physical attributes and what they symbolize, let’s look together at the actions of this Beast:

1. It says he comes up out of the sea.

Now it’s hard to say whether this is speaking of the Mediterranean Sea or if it’s speaking, as the scriptures often do, of the multitudes of people as a “sea of people”.

Some make the case that because this is written with the definite article “the”, as in “the sea”, that it’s a reference to the Mediterranean Sea which, in turn, is part of what leads people to postulate that the Antichrist will arise from Rome.

But others make the case that because “sea” is so often used in a

spiritualized sense to speak of the Gentile nations that that's what it's referring to and if so ... it would follow that the next Beast which **verse 11** says, comes from the "land" must be a spiritualized reference to Israel and if you play that out it works and makes sense as well. So ... we'll talk more about next week, but ...

You can take those opinions for what they're worth and decide on your own. Either way this Beast rises up out of it.

2. He receives from Satan ... evil power and evil authority.

Satan can't give what someone will not accept.

In fact, note with me that this is the same power that Satan offered to Jesus Christ during the 40 days of temptation (**Matt 4**); "If you will bow down and worship me Jesus, I will give you this kingdom and all its glory." Jesus turned Satan down flat ... but the Antichrist accepts.

3. He leads the whole world.

Now the context tells us that this is not "leads" as in, exercising his authority over them, but that he "leads" the whole world because the whole world is following after him and worshipping him of their own accord.

And part of the reason for the allegiance of the people, **Zechariah 11** tells us, is that during his ascent to supreme world power, he will overcome three of the world's most powerful nations. And he will kill those two annoying witnesses of God as we saw in our study of **Revelation 11**. He's a people pleaser and amasses a great following by simply giving the people what they want.

Which sounds frighteningly familiar to me!

But note also with me that there is a contrast between **verses 4 and 7**. Because while **verse 7** is certainly speaking of the influence and authority that the Antichrist will have over earthly kings and governments ... it is not a mere repeat of **verse 4**.

Q. So what authority is verse 4 speaking of then? -- Spiritual authority. Authority over the evil spirits that do Satan's bidding today. All that is currently submitted to Satan's spiritual throne.

Leadership of, not only the physical world, but the evil, spiritual world as well.

4. He speaks arrogant blasphemies against God and the heavenly saints as he exercises his satanic authority for 3 and ½ years.

An interesting note about the Antichrist written to us in ...

Dan 11:36 "Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done. 37 "He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all.

*** Now ... keep your finger there as we consider the last of the actions John lists for us ...**

5. He makes war with and physically overcomes the Tribulation Saints during the Great Tribulation.

Dan 11: 38 "But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor him with gold, silver, costly stones and treasures. 39 "He will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge him and will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price.

What that's essentially saying is that beginning at the midpoint of the Tribulation, the machinery of war will be the biggest part of his administration's budget.

And all of this is yet one more reason that I believe in a pre-tribulation rapture of the church.

Because in His conversation with Peter in **Matthew 16 (verse 18)**, Jesus assures His followers that the Gates of Hell will never overcome the church.

But if the church is still on earth here in **Revelation 13**, then it's being overcome by evil and that can't be. So I believe that the church is gone and that this passage is speaking of those who come to salvation during the Tribulation Period ... they will be overcome on a physical level and yet they will be eternally safe.

And the last piece of this picture that John gives us is the response of the people to this Beast and it says:

1. They are amazed with him.
2. They follow after him.
3. They worship him.
4. They submit to him.

Verses 8-10: Let's read the first portion of that together from the Amplified Bible ...

Rev 13:8 And all the inhabitants of the earth will fall down in adoration and pay him homage, everyone whose name has not been recorded in the Book of Life of the Lamb that was slain [in sacrifice] from the foundation of the world. 9 If anyone is able to hear, let him listen: 10 Whoever leads into captivity will himself go into captivity; if anyone slays with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Herein is [the call for] the patience and the faith and fidelity of the saints (God's people). [Jer 15:2.] AMP

So convincing will the sales pitch and evidence of supernatural empowerment be, that without the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit no one will be able to withstand it. It says every unsaved person will fall down and worship him. And it would seem to indicate that they are, at that point, irrevocably captivated by him.

But the Tribulation Saints will hang on by faith. Even though they will be totally overwhelmed on a physical level ... conquered in the flesh ... they will see the Lord's power to repay Satan and the Antichrist and those who walk in the ways of evil. But those saints will have to wait patiently and faithfully ... not taking retribution to themselves, but trusting in the Lord.

Conclusion: You know, we read in the gospels that the Jews wanted Jesus to be their King. Their contemporary savior. But they didn't like His ways or His priorities.

It even says that they considered taking Him by force and making Him be their king (**John 6:15**).

They saw in Him all the attributes of a great king, even though they didn't like His agenda and priorities.

Q. Because ... what was and is, His priority? – The human heart. The condition of the human spirit. That will always be His chief concern.

But there is another "christ" coming ... and as we saw in **1 John** ... there are already many "other christs" at work in this world. False Christs ... or alternative Christs.

And the one that is yet future, will actually be more popular than the real One. He will

tell you that your heart is fine. That you're spirit is right on. He will convince the world (and it's already 98% convinced), that what they really need is for him to straighten out the world's economics and politics and to convince people to live in peace. To bring in temporal change. To make some new rules and change some old ones and then everything will be okay. And the world will believe him.

But it should make us question ...

Q. What's our priority? Is our priority the human condition or the heart condition? The temporal hardship or the eternal destination?

Taking care of the flesh is popular. You can run a food bank or give away clothing or contribute to a homeless shelter or build homes for the needy or do any number of such things and you will be hailed as a hero ... but ...

Minister to people's spirits ... faithfully tell others about the True Savior ... consistently point people to Him and to the answers for life that He wrote down for us and you'll be a freak.

One's very popular, but has relatively little value. The other is eternal, but very unappreciated ... even unwelcome by the world.

One's popular ... the other one's right!

Q. What's your priority? – Tonight will be a great opportunity for you to find out about yourself and what your priorities really are as we have opportunity to interact with the neighbors God's given us.

Agape Outreach tonight at 5 (don't congregate).

Teaching on Communion: You know, I just returned from the Pastor's Conference there in Southern California. And I was blessed, but without a single doubt, the best part of the conference was Communion.

And by that I am not talking about some 10 minute service of communion. I'm talking about real and sustained communion.

And folks ... the sacrament or service of Communion is not an end to itself. It is designed by God to be a beginning. The service of Communion should touch your heart ... it should create a hunger and a thirst within you.

You know what it's like when you're a little bit hungry ... until someone gives you a little nibble of something delicious. Then you're ravenous. You start to salivate for more.

Well, that's what the service of Communion is to do. As we remember His suffering and death and resurrection ... remember that those things made it possible for us to have

communion with Him.

Communion should give you a taste of the incredible presence of the Lord. It should make you want to spend the day with Him. The week ... your life in His presence.

Q. So for this morning's Communion Service ... would you simply do that ... would you simply take the bread and the cup and then begin praying for His presence?

And I know from experience, and many of you do too, that having such a meeting with Him ... you're gonna want more and more and more. So just pray for His touch and then we'll take Communion together.