

The Revelation – The Beast from the Sea

Before continuing our study on Revelation today I want to apologize for missing last week's lesson. I felt that I needed to attend my uncle's funeral in Texas.

In today's lesson we'll take a look at the first beast in Revelation 13 which came up out of the sea. Let's look at the first 10 verses of Revelation 13, which says:

- (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.
- (2) And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.
- (3) And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.
- (4) And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?
- (5) And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty *and* two months.
- (6) And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.
- (7) And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.
- (8) And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.
- (9) If any man have an ear, let him hear.
- (10) He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

As we look at this Scripture we see that this first beast rises up out of the sea. It would appear that this beast is the people's man as the sea is often used to represent a multitude of people. There is much speculation as to the meaning of this beast. Many believe that the seven heads represent the seven hills of Rome, and therefore that this beast is a revival of the Roman empire. Some even think that the formation of the European Union is in preparation of this empire.

I think, though, that it is not purely a revival of the Roman empire. I think that this is a new worldwide government. Since this government came up from the people it would appear to be a democracy, or more precisely a republic. The seven heads, then, would indicate that the government is first divided by seven. Is it coincidental that this is the same as the number of continents? I don't know, but I do find it to be interesting that these two numbers match.

There is a further division into ten kingdoms. These kingdoms appear to be subordinate to the seven heads, much like the states of the United States have become subordinate to the federal government. It would appear, then, that the government is a conglomeration of ten governments into a single worldwide government.

The description of this beast is interesting. First we see that it looks like a leopard. This would seem to indicate that the beast is fast in rising, and that its rising will be easily concealed with its spots. It may also indicate that there are some holes in the kingdom.

Next we see that there are feet like a bear. Obviously this is indicating the strength to rip to shreds all who would oppose it. The feet, then, appear to be what holds the government together.

The beast also has the mouth of a lion. Now the thing that comes to my mind first with the lion's mouth is the ferociousness of his roar. There apparently are many might words which come forth from this government, words which will terrify those very people from which it arose and keep them in submission.

You see, even though the beast rises up from the people its institution is designed by Satan himself. He manipulated the people to elect these leaders which would develop this government. As we will see later he will use the state of the economy to bring about this change. You see, the love of money is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10), and Satan will use that love to his advantage.

It would appear that this government will go through a period of great turmoil as a portion of the world changes its mind and decides to withdraw. This will, of course, lead to civil war, and ultimately the union will be restored (just as in the history of the United States). The conclusion of this civil war leads to an even more complete control of this new government.

It is at this point that the beast begins to use its power to blaspheme God. People begin to worship the beast, meaning that the form of worship has become human centered. They are also worshipping the dragon, who becomes the president of this new government.

As the power of the beast is increased he begins to focus on the few people who are in opposition to his kingdom. If it weren't for those pesky Christians trying to run everyone's lives everything would be OK. To counter this he begins a period of Great Tribulation, a period when the Christians are considered to be enemies of the state unless they renounce their faith in God.

This lesson ends with a little comfort for the saints who are alive during this period. First he tells us to listen so that we can understand that these things must come to pass. Next he tells us that vengeance belongs to him. He will repay.

Yours in Christ,

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