

satan's ultimate goal: is not merely influence, government, not even economic control

It is Worship! satan has wanted worship from the beginning

“How you are fallen from heaven, Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! Isaiah 14:12 NKJV

For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; Isaiah 14:13 NKJV

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.’ Isaiah 14:14 NKJV

When satan tempted Jesus, he offered Him the kingdoms of the world in **exchange for worship**

All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me Matthew 4:9 NKJV

Jesus responded: You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve. Matthew 4:10 NKJV

In fact, we are **created for worship**: This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise Isaiah 43:21 NKJV – Romans 1:25 NKJV, John 4:23 NKJV, Revelation 4:11 NKJV

We are created to worship God. Sin did not remove our capacity to worship; it redirected it. But our redemption restores our worship to the One who deserves it

In chapter 13 The world will exchange **worship of the Creator** for fascination with **power**

The **central issue** of Revelation 13 is not merely politics, economics, persecution, or prophecy

It is worship!

Revelation 13 reveals the next stage of his strategy; he begins working through (human) agents

Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name Revelation 13:1 NKJV

Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority Revelation 13:2 NKJV

John describes the beast as having the characteristics of a leopard, a bear, and a lion. This imagery comes directly from Daniel 7

Daniel sees them in the order they arise historically

John reverses their order: Leopard, Bear, and the Lion; it is almost as though John is looking backward through Daniel's vision

That reversal matters because it shows that the **beast** is not a totally new kind of kingdom or empire

It is a composite beast; so, it gathers into itself characteristics of the earlier pagan empires which were Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome the final kingdom or empire

The **leopard** suggests speed and conquest. The **bear** represents crushing strength. The **lion** represents majesty, ferocity, and royal power

So the beast in chapter **13** combines the traits of the kingdoms **Daniel** had already seen

“The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority”

Paul gives us a parallel description: **The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan. 2 Thessalonians 2:9 NKJV**

This is extremely important because satan frequently works through humans, but Paul reminds believers: **We do not wrestle against flesh and blood. but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places Ephesians 6:12 NKJV**

satanic oppression is pressure from **the outside**; demonic possession is control **from the inside**

Oppression means a person is being attacked, tempted, harassed, accused, intimidated, or spiritually pressured by satan or demonic forces. Believers can and will experience this kind of spiritual warfare

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8 NKJV

Resist the devil and he will flee from you. James 4:7 NKJV

Possession, by contrast, refers to a demon inhabiting and exercising significant control over a person. The Gospels give several examples of this.

When He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit Mark 5:2 NKJV

The demonized man in **Mark 5** displayed **loss of control, destructive behavior, and supernatural domination** until Jesus delivered him

A useful distinction is: **oppression**: the enemy attacks you; possession: the enemy inhabits and dominates you

For Christians, I would add one important biblical point: those who belong to Christ are indwelt by the Holy Spirit

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 1 Corinthians 3:16 NKJV

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 1 Corinthians 6:19 NKJV

So while Christians can certainly be tempted, attacked, accused, and oppressed, our Bible gives strong reason to distinguish that from demonic possession

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 Revelation 13:3 NKJV

John then sees something shocking. One of the **beast's** heads appears “**mortally wounded**”, (SG4969): *to slay, slaughter, butcher, to put to death by violence*

Yet the **deadly wound was healed** (SG2323) *to heal, cure, restore to health*

What does the **wounded head** represent?

The seven heads symbolize both **kings and kingdoms** according to Revelation 17:9–10

Revelation 17:8 speaks of a kingdom **that collapses and is restored**. A head represents a kingdom as well as a king; the wound may describe the fall and later revival of an anti-God empire. Revelation 17:8 describes the beast **as one who was, is not, and will return**

In the futurist interpretation, the **antichrist** may suffer a severe or seemingly fatal wound and then experience an astonishing recovery

These possibilities are not mutually exclusive. A restored ruler could embody the revival of his kingdom

The healing of the **beast** may involve the astonishing restoration of the antichrist **personally**, the revival of **his empire politically**, or both simultaneously

Was the **beast** genuinely raised from the dead?

The text says: “**as if it had been mortally wounded**” Revelation 13:3 NKJV

The expression describes what John saw but does not **conclusively establish** that the **beast truly died and was resurrected**

Revelation 13:14 says that he was wounded by the sword and lived. It could be an actual death followed by a satanically empowered counterfeit resurrection

Scripture does not tell us enough to be dogmatic

Who was behind the healing? The immediate context points to satan:

The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. Revelation 13:2 NKJV

The crucial point is the effect of what has happened: **“all the world marveled”**, and the apparent recovery causes **worldwide admiration**

The **beast**: appears mortally wounded, recovers, and receives worship. It is another counterfeit

Jesus warned: **False christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive Matthew 24:24 NKJV**

That is why we must pay attention to what consistently captures our imagination

So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” Revelation 13:4

The real issue is worship. It is what satan wanted all along: **Isaiah 12:14 NKJV**

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High Isaiah 14:14 NKJV

The world worships the **dragon** because he gave the **beast** authority

Then they worship the **beast**; the political becomes spiritual; the visible ruler becomes the vehicle for invisible rebellion

This is satan's ultimate goal, not merely influence, government, not even economic control

It is Worship! satan has wanted worship from the beginning

Today, September 27th he wants your allegiance, obedience, and your worship

The world asks, **“Who is like the beast?”**

That statement is deliberately ironic. Scripture repeatedly asks: Who is like God?

Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Exodus 15:11 NKJV, Who is like You, O LORD? Psalm 35:10 NKJV: The beast receives language that belongs to God

“Who Is Able to Make War With Him?”

Humanity becomes convinced the **beast** is unbeatable; **that power becomes the basis for worship**

That mentality still exists today. People often **admire power** simply because **it is power**

We celebrate the strongest, wealthiest, loudest, famous, influential, and the most successful

But Jesus teaches us something radically different. Jesus conquers through sacrifice

Jesus says: **Whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant** Mark 10:43 NKJV

Guard your Worship - **Revelation 13** ultimately asks one question: Who will you worship?

Our deepest purpose is not merely to exist, achieve, consume, or survive. **We were made to know God, glorify Him, love Him, and live under His rule**, Jesus is the King Of Kings

Jesus summarized this when He said: **You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.** Matthew 4:10 NKJV

Scripture does not really present humanity as having a **choice between worshiping and not worshiping**. The deeper choice is what or whom we will worship

Paul explains this in: **Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator** Romans 1:25 NKJV

Notice: they did not stop worshiping. They just exchanged the object of worship

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 1 Corinthians 3:16 NKJV

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 1 Corinthians 6:19 NKJV

WE ARE MADE FOR MORE