

The last two months in **Revelation 12**, we looked at a section that told the future story of the great cosmic battle between the seven-headed dragon satan and the remnant of Israel

And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12:17 NKJV

Before we enter a chapter that looks more closely at the **antichrist**, we need to set the stage with some **prophetic background** from the book of **Daniel**

In **Daniel 2**, King Nebuchadnezzar had a really weird dream; he not only wanted someone to interpret it, but even to tell him what it was. **Daniel** was the man...

Nebuchadnezzar's dream was about a statue with **four parts to it**, and this statue was destroyed by a mysterious rock

Daniel 2:37-45: He explained that **these four parts of the statue** were **four world empires**

There is a progression **along the body parts** that is equal to the progression through time itself

The further down you go on the body, the later the time in world history

In **Daniel 7:1-28**, we're going to see a lot of parallels with **Daniel 2**. This is going to **be a vision that Daniel himself receives**, along with some interpretation

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. 2 Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. 3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. Daniel 7:1-3 NKJV

Daniel's vision is going to be about the **same four world empires**, but here they're going to be pictured as **"beasts"** instead of **body parts**

These four beasts all come out of the **"Great Sea"**, which is most likely a reference to the Mediterranean Sea

All four of these **world empires touch the Mediterranean** at some point

The first was like a **lion**, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it Daniel 7:4 NKJV

Lion: This is again the Babylonian Empire. The **"man's heart"** is a picture of Nebuchadnezzar as he went through his conversion in **Daniel 4**

And suddenly another beast, a second, like a **bear**. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh Daniel 7:5 NKJV

Bear: The "bear" represents the **Medo-Persian Empire**. Daniel describes the "bear" as being raised up on one side, which likely pictures the unequal partnership between the Medes and the Persians

The ribs are the three major nations that were conquered to form its empire: Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt. They fit historically with Persia's expansion and the command given to the bear to "Arise, devour much flesh"

After this I looked, and there was another, like a **leopard**, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. Daniel 7:6 NKJV

Leopard: This was the Greek Empire under the leadership of Alexander the Great. The Grecian Empire was later divided into four kingdoms with four kings after Alexander's death

After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had **ten horns**. Daniel 7:7 NKJV

Beast Four: This was the Roman Empire, and the later form of that kingdom represented by the ten horns. Note that just as the statue in **Daniel 2** had **ten toes**, this beast **has ten horns**, and it **isn't compared to any known animal**

I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth **speaking pompous words** Daniel 7:8 NKJV

This "little horn" (**S H7162 symbolic**) is the person of the antichrist, and he's got a mouth on him

This figure is the antichrist (Mt 24:5,15; 2 Th 2:3-4; 1 Jn 2:18; 4:3; Re 13; 17; 19). The "eyes" suggest personal magnetism and genius.

This "little horn" is not a nation in himself but a **representative of three nations**

He and his party become so powerful that they take over three of the ten empires by plucking them up "from the roots," which is a total defeat of the three horns

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. Daniel 7:25 NKJV

The antichrist will speak **“pompous words”** (inflated, swollen, exaggerated, windy, vain) things against God. He will persecute the **“saints”** who are the believing Jews

The **“beast”** arrogates and demands for himself titles that belong to God alone, **including worship**

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

“a beast” – therion thay-ree'-on ([SG2342](#)) a wild animal, wild beast; implies ferocity and brutality

We’ve already seen this **“beast”** way back in **Revelation 11** when he rises and kills the Two Witnesses: **When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them** Revelation 11:7 NKJV

This **“beast”** is the antichrist. But this term **“beast”** can be confusing

There are times when this term is speaking of an individual, like now

There are times when this term seems to be speaking of the nation or empire or the spirit of the antichrist **1 John 4:3** which refers to any teaching or influence **that denies the true identity, incarnation, and divinity of Jesus Christ**

NOTE: The word “antichrist” does not mean **“the opposite of Christ”**

The word “anti” in Greek means **“in the place of”**

The “antichrist” is an individual who will try to take the place of Jesus Christ

“out of the sea”: a beast that comes out of the sea

Some see this **“sea”** as a **“sea of nations”** a picture that’s used **Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues** Revelation 17:15 NKJV

I think that if we put this together with the empires we’ve looked at in **Daniel** chapters **2** and **7**, we might have a clue that this **“sea”** is probably a real **geographical location, as in the Mediterranean Sea**

It’s the idea that his empire arises around the Mediterranean, just like the ancient empires

“7 heads ... 10 horns ... 10 crowns”

This **beast** sounds very similar to the dragon that we studied in **Revelation 12:3**

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads **Revelation 12:3 NKJV**

Both have **seven heads**, and both have **ten horns**

I am wondering if this **“beast”** isn’t a clearer picture of what Daniel described as the **“fourth beast”**, because he didn’t compare it with any kind of animal **“It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns Daniel 7:7 NKJV**

Later on, in **Revelation 17**, we connect this same **beast** to the kingdoms of **Daniel 2** and **7**

“a blasphemous name” – **(S988)** “blasphemia”: slander, detraction, speech harmful to another's good name; irreverent and reproachful speech harmful to divine majesty

Blasphemy means **speaking or acting in a way that dishonors God or claims what belongs to God alone**

Remember in **Daniel 7:25**, **“He shall speak pompous words against the Most High”**

Paul described the **coming man of sin** as one who would **exalt himself above everything called God**

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition 2 Thessalonians 2:3 NKJV

who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God 2 Thessalonians 2:4 NKJV

The **spirit behind** the **“beast”** is ultimately: I will take God's place. That attitude is much older than **Revelation 13**

satan declared: **I will ascend into heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of God Isaiah 14:13 NKJV**. Note: Isaiah wrote about 800 years before the book of Revelation

This is the epitome of the **“world”**. The world has set itself up against God now and in the future. These Empires are not godly Empires. Each empire carries a name that blasphemes God

Grace, today, **human rebellion echoes the same desire**, stating **I will** determine what is right; **I will** determine what is true; **I will** determine who I am; **I will** determine how I live

At its core, this **human rebellion (sin)** is not merely breaking God's rules; it is attempting to occupy God's throne and His place in your life

And as the Bride of Christ, we should ask ourselves: Is there any area of my life where I want Jesus as Savior but not as Lord?

Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties Psalm 139:23 NKJV

There is a **real difference between wanting the benefits of Christ and submitting to His authority**, because Jesus does not present himself just as our Savior who forgives sin. He is also **Lord, King, Master, and Head of the Church**

We may never openly blaspheme God with our words, **yet functionally we replace Him** whenever we say, God, You can have everything—except this...

My finances, sexuality, relationships, ambitions, entertainment, forgiveness, future, a habit, a possession, or even a wound we refuse to surrender

Key Thought: Whatever we withhold from God eventually begins competing with God

Revelation 13 reminds us that the ultimate conflict is over **worship and our faithfulness**

The question is not merely whether we will bow before the beast someday

It is whether we are fully surrendered to Jesus **today**

Jesus does not ask for part of our hearts. He is worthy of everything. May our response be, Lord, You can have all of me—there are no exceptions