

Book of Revelation Chapter 13

Intro: The Bible was not written to us, it was written for us.
The Believers relationship with Rome is critical to understanding this chapter.

John knew of Rome's corrupting influence:

- Their leader was deity.
- Economics.

13:1 The **Beast from the Sea** is for sure a super human enemy/ an anti-Christ.

Notice the obvious connections between the Dragon and the Beasts (v. 1-4; 11-15).

The beast is operating under the power of the Dragon (v. 2, 4, 5).

13:2 Leopard, bear and lion are similar to the vision in Daniel 7.

13:3 Fatal head wound may be: Nero or Roman Empire.

13:4 This echoes Exodus 15:3-18.

13:7 The many martyrs must be read in light of 12:11.

13:8 All inhabitants will worship the beast except those who follow Jesus.

13:11 The **Beast from the land** is described in terms of what it does, not what it looks like.

This beast is probably the cult of the emperor.

Anti-Christ and the Mark of the Beast

Biblical idea of the Anti-Christ:

1. A general **spirit**. (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7; Rev 13:1-2)
2. The world's system. (Daniel 2:24-45;7:23-27)
3. A human being. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

13:16 Mark of the Beast

666: An allusion to the creation story.

1. Involves **worshipping** the Beast or his system.
2. Involves prioritizing **material** interests over eternal issues.
3. Involves a "mark" on the head or hand.
4. Involves **participation** in a "spirit."