

## **The Sea Monster**

### ***Revelation 13:1-4***

#### I. Two Visions.

##### A. King Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2:31-45)

1. The statue
  - a. The head of gold—Babylon
  - b. The breast and arms of silver—Medo Persia
  - c. The belly and thighs of bronze—Greece
  - d. The legs of iron—Rome  
-- The toes of clay and iron.
  - e. The eternal kingdom (2:44).

##### B. Daniel's vision (Daniel 7:1-8).

1. Four independent beasts.
  - a. **The Babylonian Empire**—a lion with wings.
  - b. **The Medo-Persian Empire**—a bear.
  - c. **Greece**—a leopard.
  - d. **Rome**—a dreadful beast who will devour.
2. Ten horns—ten united kingdoms.
3. The little horn—antichrist.

##### C. A New Testament account—2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:3-10

#### II. The coming world leader.

##### A. Names: Little Horn; The Prince to Come; The Lawless One; Man of Sin; Son of Perdition; Antichrist; The Beast.

##### B. Antichrist—1 John 2:18

1. Many antichrists have and will come (plural)
2. The Antichrist will come (singular).

- III. The Beast (Revelation 13:1-4).
  - A. Has the qualities of all four previous empires in Daniel 2 and 7.
  - B. Satan oversees and empowers the beast (13:1).
    - 1. The sea—A tumultuous place: humanity? The abyss? Represents evil?
  - C. The beast is wicked (13:1)
    - 1. The beast—a man? An individual? A system? A man and a system?
    - 2. The beast has the same description as the dragon (Satan) in chapter 12.
    - 3. The beast will form a one world system with a coalition of ten unified world leaders (ten horns).
    - 4. The beast lives to blaspheme the most Holy.
  - D. The beast will have world dominance (13:2).
  - E. The beast will deceive the entire world (13:3).
    - 1. An assassination attempt? A fake death? A resurrection?
    - 2. His “resurrection” wins the souls of the masses.
  - F. The world worships the beast (13:4).
    - 1. *“Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?”*
      - a. A blaspheme toward God.

**How can people be so deceived by a man?**

## The Sea Monster

### *Revelation 13:1-4*

Good morning, I'm Dan... Well it's good to be back after a period of having to put up with extreme 70 degree heat and painfully blue sunny skies that hurt the eyes... and the annoying sound of continuous waves crashing on the rocks...

We had a great break... 1/3 of it my wife and her father, Steve and I enjoyed a great time together... 1/3 Julie and I celebrated our wedding anniversary... and 1/3 third, for a week, I was in Bible study, just me and the antichrist... And I am sick of him... and one of my goals this week and next is to get you sick of him as well.

We would all rather spend our time thinking about Jesus... but to fully appreciate Jesus, we need to understand His enemy, His opposition that wants to derail us in our relationship with Him... the enemy is Satan... and Satan is like Iran.

Iran doesn't fight its own battles, their proxies do... Hezbollah, Hamas, they do the dirty work, Iran empowers them to do their dirty work.... that is Satan and his anti-Christ....

I would like to begin with two dreams or visions... you may know these dreams if you've been in your Bible... they are both found in the book of Daniel... Daniel, in the Old Testament, written some 500 years before Christ.... nearly 600 years before John penned Revelation.

The first dream was one of the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel chapter 2... Daniel is called in to interpret the dream, first he replays it for the king:

**31 "You, O king, were looking, and behold, there was a single great image; that image, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was rising up in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. 32 The head of that image was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34 You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.**

Daniel then interprets the dream... he tells them that each of the parts of this statue represented empires, the present Babylonian empire and the future empires.... Daniel looks forward to the end of all empires.

**The head of gold** = Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar's empire...will not last forever, will be replaced.

**The breasts and arms of silver** = the Medo-Persian Empire... will not last forever, will be replaced.

**The belly and thighs of bronze** = Greece...amazing empire.... Gone....replaced by

**The legs of iron** = Rome... which will be strong and mighty... and it was...but didn't last forever... but there were the toes...made of a **mixture of iron and clay**...a strange mixture... appears to come together as one...a complete unified empire... Daniel says in the long run... **they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not mix with pottery**... a mysterious empire.

But there would be one more...Daniel says in verse 44

**44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will cause a kingdom to rise up which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself stand forever.**<sup>45</sup> Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will happen in the future; so **the dream is certain**, and its interpretation is trustworthy."

A brief picture of the future history of the world after Nebuchadnezzar...it really became history... all that played out. The other dream is similar... it is Daniel's dream given to him by God... Daniel 7.

"I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.<sup>3</sup> And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another.<sup>4</sup> The first *was* like a lion and had *the* wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; and a heart of a man was given to it.<sup>5</sup> And behold, another beast, a second one in the likeness of a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs *were* in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!'<sup>6</sup> After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, 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.<sup>7</sup> After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, (not a named animal) fearsome and terrifying and extraordinarily strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and **it had ten horns**.<sup>8</sup> While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth speaking great *boasts*.

Daniel was “distressed” by this vision... I would have been also... He sought out interpretation from an angel... it turns out... these four beast coming out from the sea were those first four empires from chapter 2...

The first beast is **the Babylonian Empire** represented by a lion with wings.

The second beast is **the Medo-Persian Empire** represented by a bear

The third beast is **Greece** represented by the leopard.

The fourth beast is **Rome** represented by some dreadful beast who will devour... with ten horns... this Roman empire would cease...it would become divided... but out of it ten kings will arise...(remember the ten toes of iron and clay?)...and then one more...this ruler would be different from all the others... verse 25 says

**25 He will speak words against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make changes in seasons and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.** 3 yrs.

This little horn... this man will arise grabbing onto great power... he blasphemes God... he attacks the saints... believers... persecutes them... rules the world...unleashes his power...but only for a defined period of time... 3 years... THEN

**26 But the court (God’s court) will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.27 Then the reign, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.’**

Much more is revealed about this coming world ruler... Daniel 8,9,11...reveals that he will have absolute power...he will do whatever he pleases...the leader of a worldwide false religion...It will be a one world government...he will exalt and magnify himself above every god... he will continuously blaspheme All Mighty God...but it all comes crashing to an end.

### **One more thing before we begin...**

The apostle Paul, I’m sure having Daniel’s prophesy in mind writes this out in straight forward language in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10...the situation is the church is they had heard the day of the Lord had come... Christ had returned...

**3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it has not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the sanctuary of God, exhibiting himself as being God.5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? [Daniel?]6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed.7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.8 And then that lawless one**

will be revealed—whom the Lord Jesus will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming—**[The man of lawlessness is coming!]**<sup>9</sup> whose coming is in accord with the working of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,<sup>10</sup> and with all the deception of unrighteousness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

Why do we study the end times... the antichrist?...especially in that I don't ever plan on meeting him!...I'm planning on being out of here before he gets here!

1. To ensure our own salvation... 2. The end times doesn't happen in a vacuum... it has been a long process...things don't just go along year after year, decade after decade dandy then BAM there a beast ruling the world!...

The process has been in process since Genesis 3...we know the world is broken... some times are better than others.... But we look at the world and we know something is wrong... there is something in each one of us that looks for a solution... an answer... a person... a god...a something to fix it... some politician.... But it never gets fixed.

The Christian is at a great advantage.... We know the fix... we know the solution... we know it is Jesus Christ... the world is looking for something! We need to realize the time is short... the signs are here...they are amping up... time is crucial...a lot of lost people in this world!

God wants us to know this... (13:9) **If anyone has an ear let him hear!** Hear this Christian!

So...before you ever crack open the New Testament book of Revelation...(I've just scratched the surface!) **it has been well established that in the future, there is a "man"**...individual... someone, something that will lead...or take... this world to it's final conclusion...

He's been referred to already as the **Little horn** (Daniel)...also...**The Prince who is to come...The Lawless one** (2 Thess.) **Man of sin... son of perdition ...the antichrist ...and the beast** ...and many more names....

We all know Antichrist...ask anyone on the street have they heard of Antichrist.... They will look at you funny but of course they have... he rates right up there with Santa Claus...

Antichrist. "*one who is against Christ*" or "*one who is in the place of Christ*" A "*counter Christ*"...which I think is the greater desire of Satan...so much has been said over the years about the antichrist... most of it false...

The word isn't even found in the book of Revelation...he is called a beast... nor any other book of the Bible except John's two epistles... 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> John... 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:18 is helpful...

**Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared. From this we know that it is the last hour.**

There is an antichrist (singular) coming...we've all heard that haven't we?... but MANY antichrist's (plural) have already come... History is full of antichrists!... as we get closer to the "last hour"... the end... more and more "antichrists" will show up.

Knowing that there is an Antichrist that will come marking the end... Christians throughout history have tried to identify him... back in 40AD, the horrendous Roman emperor Caligula attempted to put an image of himself in the temple in Jerusalem... *"This could be him!"*

Caesar Nero pops up a few years later in Rome... 57 AD he launched a persecution of the Christian church that was one of the worst in history... Christians at that time were sure he was "the beast"...through history... (I won't get into it but if you are a preterist, you probably view Nero as the antichrist)

Atilla the Hun...Lennin... Stalin... Hitler... Pol Pot... Mao...Putin...all antichrists... but...some have identified as antichrists every president of the United States...John F. Kennedy... I remember Ronald Reagan...certainly Nixon was the antichrist... today Elon Musk...and of course Donald J Trump especially after setting up the "Board of Peace" a couple weeks ago...

Who is he?... when is he going to be here?... that's what we want to know! Right?...

I don't think God wants us to know those things... That's why when 20 theologians read Revelation, you get 20 interpretations... God gives us what He wants to give us... and He doesn't give us his identity or when specifically when he will be here... we are not even sure it is a man!

What I've noticed... when God wants us to know something specific, he gives us incredible details... he want you to build an ark He will tell you to the cubit how He wants it to be... When He wants you to do something He doesn't make you guess...build the tabernacle?... how to pack it and move it... nothing left to the imagination....

When it comes to the "antichrist"... and even the final end times... He gives us exactly what we need to know... I said months ago that the book of Revelation is not a puzzle to be put together... [EXPOUND]

I think God wants us to be more concerned with the "what" rather than the "Who and what time"

Let's read the first four verses... if we can get further we will...

### **Read 13:1-4**

Does any of this sound familiar?... Daniel 7?... four beast were coming out of the sea... one like a lion with wings, one like a bear, one like a leopard, one a horrible beast... **this beast here is one beast**...but has all the characteristics of the four beast, four empires in Daniel... the same descriptive animals... but in reverse.

Daniel was looking into the future...Lion, Bear, Leopard, Beast... John's looking back to the past... Beast, leopard, bear, lion...but in John's beast... all the animals make up the beast!... this beast empire will have all the qualities of the four past empires... all in one!

This is a mighty empire... the animals represent stand out animalistic qualities... Beast is horrific... leopard is fast (Greece quickly spread throughout the known world) the bear was fierce, strong and stable (Medo-Persian) Lion was a all consuming power... all of these now in one horrific beast.

I like the observation from John Lennox about the animals... he points out these are animalistic traits, not human traits... *One of the principle differences between animals and humans is that the latter are moral beings... Wild animals are amoral...which is why a lion is not put on trial and jailed for mauling its zookeeper.*

His point is... this beast is amoral but is given human intelligence... *a fearful combination to contemplate.*

I have several observations to pull out of this passage that is revealed to us by God...I doubt that we will get through them all today... what can we know about the beast.

## 1. Satan oversees and empowers the beast

### 1a And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore.

Had we not paused for two months you would know exactly who the dragon is...

He is Satan... he is in control of all that is going to happen in this tribulation period of time... we left him in chapter 12 trying to devour baby Jesus... then trying to destroy the redeemed of Israel... but Israel is "flown away" from the dragon and protected for the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation... failing at destroying the Messiah...he begins another strategy... to empower two entities... the beast that comes from the sea...antichrist.... And his prophet... beast from the land.

### 2. The beast is wicked

#### 1b Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea...

Notice he rises out of the sea... much is made about the sea... some say it represents the sea of humanity...humanity with all its mess... crime, violence, wars, very turbulent... some say it represents evil...Isaiah says **the wicked are like the troubled sea.** it could be the "abyss"...whatever it is... it isn't a great place.

Is this a man?...an individual?... or is it something else?... there are disagreements here between solid Bible scholars... some say the antichrist is a man... some say no... this is a system, a world system...an evil empire or political power.

Bible teacher David Hocking whom I respect doesn't believe this beast is THE antichrist...he believes it is a world system...

Some say the antichrist here is an impersonal force...a presence... a spirit... the evil spirit of this age... that really messes up the Left Behind Books and movies!

There are good arguments for all... I think he is presented as both a man and a world system... together... There is usually a very close connection with the emperor and his empire... I think his appearance supports this...in chapter 12 the great red dragon, Satan is introduced as one **having seven heads and ten horns and on his head were ten diadems...**

this beast here in chapter 13 has the same description...this shows how closely the beast relates to Satan...Horns symbolize great strength and power...the beast will form a one world alliance with ten world leaders... ten horns

represent the great power of ten world leaders who will rule under the Beast's absolute rule...the seven heads are explained later in chapter 17 as empires, all the way through to the Beasts empire... lead by these seven world leaders.

The seven diadems or royal crowns represent his regal authority... the point is... the beast presents himself in the likeness of his master, Satan himself....

**And on his heads were blasphemous names...** everything connected to the antichrist will blaspheme the most holy... remember what I read in 2 Thessalonians 2:4 this antichrist **who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the sanctuary of God, exhibiting himself as being God....**he is wicked....

### 3. He will have world dominance

As we saw... he has the qualities of the most powerful empires that ruled the world through history. The Lion, Bear, leopard, beast.

#### Read verse 2

This beast won't be just as powerful as Greece, the leopard... or just as powerful as Babylon the lion with wings... he will dominate all kingdoms...and where does he get his power?... **the dragon... Satan.**

### 4. He will deceive the entire world

So the beast comes out of the sea...he begins as a peacemaker... but will end with war and destruction like the world has never seen...he will be charming at first... charismatic... people will flock to him... they eventually worship him.

#### Read verse 3

A few takes on this but this is what I think... there is going to be an assassination attempt on the beast... **as if he had been slain**...which means murdered or assassinated... he is going to suffer what appears to be a fatal wound...

As far s everyone is concerned... the world watching is going to conclude he has been killed... BUT... it will appear that he is resurrected... his fatal wound is healed...according to Newsweek magazine, back when Donald Trump was running for president in July 2024 his favorability rating for winning the election was 60%...immediately after the assassination attempt... it rose to 74%....there's something about surviving a assassination attempt!

I believe the beast staged the whole thing... whatever... it appeared he was killed and then lived... what is amazing... **the whole earth marveled and followed after the beast...** This is the event that deceived the world into thinking HE WAS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD!.

Maybe that was what Jesus was thinking when He said “ **I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him.**” John 5:43

## 5. They worshipped him

The world gets so enamored by this savior imposter that they worship him.

### Read verse 4

They worshipped the dragon... who is that?... Satan... antichrist is Satan’s representative... they worshipped him as well... look further own to verse 8

### Read verse 8

How did they worship him?... they chanted **Who is like the beast? And who is able to wage war with him?** BLASPHEMY!

Exodus 15:11 11

**Who is like You among the gods, O Yahweh? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Fearsome in praises, working wonders?**

Psalms 35:10. “**Lord, who is like You?**”

Isaiah 40:18, “**To whom then will you liken God?**” Or to what likeness will you compare **Him?**”

Verse 25, “**“To whom then will you liken me?’ says the holy one.”**

Isaiah 46:5, “**“To whom would you liken me and make me equal and compare me?’ says God.”**

I thought a lot about this over the last few weeks... **how can people be so deceived by a man?...** the more I pay attention to what is happening in the world... and I see the depravity of man... the moral bankruptcy of our leaders... I don't know about you but I don't want to follow any man!

Preachers... politicians... friends... leaders...

And yet... if you look at the history of all past civilizations... it is bad men, bad leaders that brought them down.

Arnold Toynbee, British historian who studied in particular, the decline of civilizations...back in the 1960's

*"By forcing on mankind more and more lethal weapons and at the same time making the whole world more and more interdependent economically, technology has brought mankind to such a **degree of distress** that we are ripe for deifying any new Caesar who might succeed in giving the world unity and peace"*

In other words... the world is in such a bad state... an apparently hopeless state...everything is falling apart that people will jump to anyone who makes a promise to bail them out of the mess....the world is a contradiction... we keep producing weapons of mass destruction and at the same time expand trade deals with our adversaries...

Why do empires fall and new empires begin?

**When an empire is marked by chaos....** What is chaos?...complete disorder and confusion...when a culture dismantles any order... dismantles its values... denies the concept of "absolutes"... objective truth... attempts to be 100% inclusive by erasing moral absolutes... it doesn't take long to be in a chaotic state...

I don't need to tell any of you we've been watching our empire dismantle any sense of order... we opened our borders...we are open to globalism...Alaska Airlines logo says "One World"... we eliminated definitions of gender... we are to embrace any and all lifestyles regardless of morality issues... what morality?!...

Back in 1990.... Lynda Falkenstein, of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory says, quote: *"Black-and-white answers probably never really existed, but the time is long past when even the myth can endure. Competent world citizens must act in the large zones of grays where absolutes are absent,"* Chaos.

I spent some time reading other writings also around the 1990's, 80's 70's... fascinating to me that the writing was on the wall back 40,50,60 years ago... was anyone listening?... it really began in our elementary and high school classrooms...the answer to the world's problems is the tear down of nations and boundaries and forge a one world system...

Back in 1986...the National Education Association concluded in a report on how to set the education process on the right track... *“It is with sobering awareness that we set about to change the course of American education for the twenty-first century by embracing the ideals of global community, the equality and interdependence of all peoples and nations and education as a tool to bring about world peace.”*

In his now somewhat classic book, also in the 1980’s... *The Closing of the American Mind* by Alan Bloom...talking about what was being considered in the education leadership in the U.S... *An integral part of the new global education is, “To force students to recognize that there are other ways of thinking,” in other words, that’s essential to globalism, “in order to establish a world community and train its members to be persons devoid of prejudice,”*

When you hear prejudice think “Christianity”... that’s what they mean... Remove boundaries... remove standards... remove any concept of absolute truth...remove individualism...remove any distinctions...remove morals and exchange values... remove Christianity.

CHAOS!

We look around and say *“man! Everything is so messed up!”*... *“things are so hopeless!”* who’s going to fix all this!? ... ***“hey, sit back... I got this!”***...at the moment the sea is in its greatest stormy condition... rising out from the waves is this monster...the man on the white horse Revelation chapter 6, remember?