



Αποκάλυψη

# REVELATION

13:5-10

# OUTLINE

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- 📍 Main Point
- 📍 The Vision
- 📍 The Mouth of the Beast (v. 5)
- 📍 The Blasphemies of the Beast (v. 6)
- 📍 The Conquest of the Beast (v. 7)
- 📍 The Worship of the Beast (v. 8)
- 📍 A Word to the Wise (v. 9-10)
- 📍 Why Do Christians Suffer?

# MAIN POINT

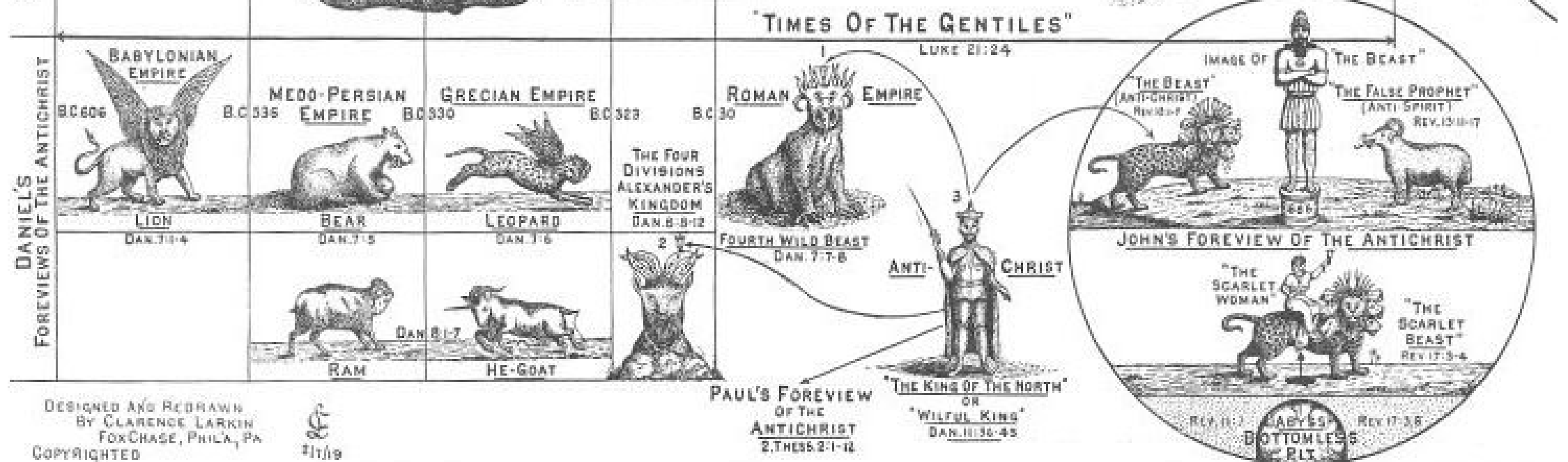
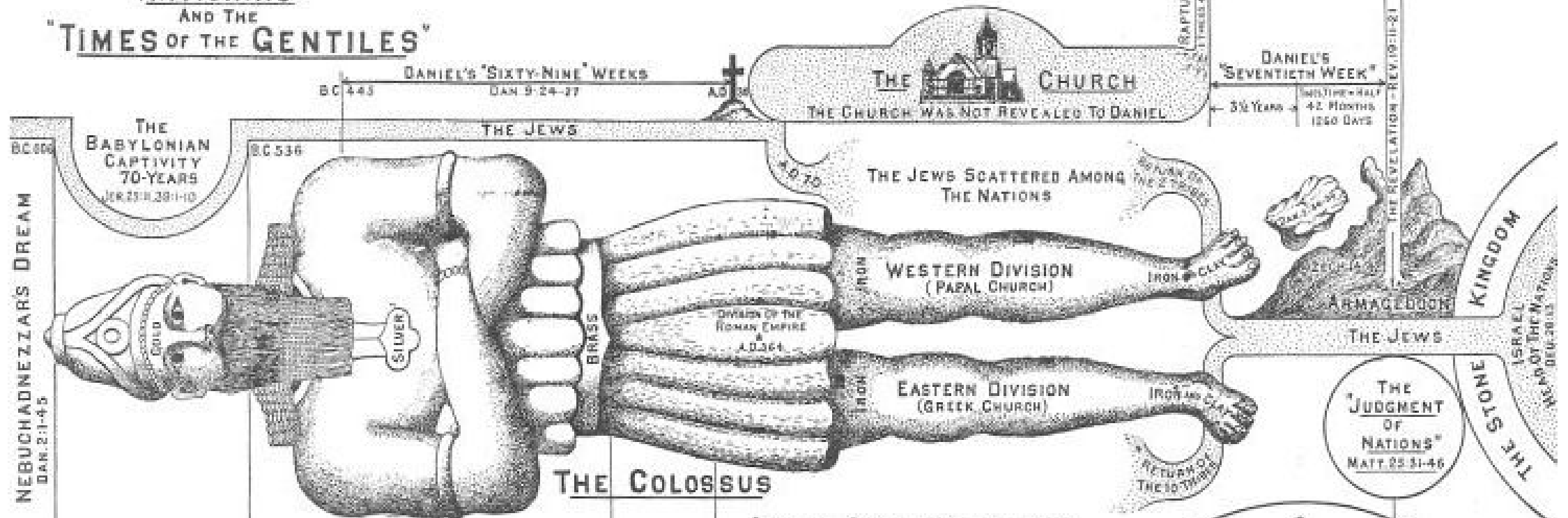
- 👤 We will now see the scope and scale of the power of the Beast and the Beast System
  - 👤 Is the direct minister of Satan on the Earth
  - 👤 Will seek to enact Satan's plan for the world and thwart God's plan for establishing the Kingdom
  - 👤 Despite all that, God has specifically allowed the emergence of the Beast and will use that for His own ends
- 👤 It is interesting to consider that God uses those in rebellion against Him to accomplish His goals
  - 👤 Many people are bothered by evil in the world and wonder why God allows it
  - 👤 Many people also worry about suffering, particularly for those that do not deserve it
  - 👤 Passages like **Job 1-2** and **1 Kings 22:22-23** show that there is more going on behind the scenes that we understand
- 👤 God does allow suffering into our lives, and He has many reasons for it
  - 👤 The saints here are given a call for endurance
  - 👤 Told to rely on and trust in God
  - 👤 We may not always understand our suffering, but it is often best to see what God is doing in that suffering and what He wants us to learn rather than try to find a quick way out

# THE VISION



01

# ANTICHRIST AND THE "TIMES OF THE GENTILES"



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# THE MOUTH OF THE BEAST (V. 5)

- 👤 One of the striking things about the Beast is his speaking ability
  - 👤 Seen also in **Daniel 7:8, 11, 20, 25**
  - 👤 Likely also includes various blasphemies against God as discussed last week
  - 👤 Aligns with **2 Thessalonians 2:4**
  - 👤 Common for ancient rulers to claim various lofty titles, even titles of godhood
    - 👤 Kings generally also had some priestly function, even if the priesthood was split from the monarchy
- 👤 Total time of the Beast's power is 42 months
  - 👤 Same period of time we have repeatedly seen
  - 👤 This is not a limit that the Dragon places on the Beast
  - 👤 The Dragon would not place any limits on him
  - 👤 Instead, this is God's limit and aligns with God's overall timetable
  - 👤 Recall that one (but certainly not the only) purpose of the Tribulation is to bring repentance to Israel (c.f. **Hosea 5:15-6:2**)
  - 👤 Satan will try to use this time to destroy the Jews totally and avert the Second Coming
  - 👤 Will not succeed, but the destruction will be immense (**Zechariah 13:8-9**)
- 👤 Many people ask why a God of love could allow evil in the world
  - 👤 More going on that we know (one of the points of **Job**)
  - 👤 God is using those in rebellion against Him to bring about His ultimate designs

# THE BLESPEMIES OF THE BEAST (V. 6)

## 🗣️ Remember that blasphemies are direct insults to God

🗣️ Previously this was the Beast being worshiped

🗣️ Being “like God”

🗣️ Blasphemies spoken of in **Daniel 11:36-45**

🗣️ Recall that the people on earth are not confused about who God is and why they are being judged (**Revelation 6:16-17**), or about who Satan is (**Revelation 13:4**)

🗣️ They are willingly and knowingly following after the Beast and Satan in defiance of God because they want to live in their sin and do not want Jesus to rule over them

## 🗣️ Not just speaking against God or His Temple, but even those in Heaven

🗣️ Possibly includes those who were martyred during the Tribulation, but why waste time on them?

🗣️ Likely also includes those angels which fought against Satan and kicked him out of Heaven in **Chapter 12** (Thomas v2, p. 162-3)

🗣️ In other words, Satan (and the Beast) are angry at because they now need to resort to this plan

## 🗣️ Here, he has a great ability to speak, and he uses it for evil

🗣️ There is debate if the speaking ability of the First Beast comes from God or Satan

🗣️ “Was given” is in the passive voice and is unclear in v.5

🗣️ However, the fact that it was limited does not align with something Satan would do, thus implying that God gave him these abilities (Thomas v2, p. 160)

🗣️ It is a shame whenever people use their gifts, talents, etc. for evil purposes

🗣️ Recall that everything we have and are is a gift, even life, speaking, and breath itself

🗣️ We can take nothing for granted: God gave it to us, and He can take it away

# THE CONQUEST OF THE BEAST (V. 7)

## 👤 Recall that not all saints are in the Church

- 👤 There were people Justified before the Church (e.g. **Hebrews 11**)
- 👤 There were people Justified in the Tribulation (**Revelation 7:9-17**)
- 👤 There will be people Justified after the Tribulation (e.g. **Revelation 20:9**)

## 👤 The conflict here is specifically against the seed of the Woman (**Revelation 12:7**)

- 👤 To do this, the First Beast needs to have power over the other peoples, etc.
- 👤 This is the goal that great rulers and empires have sought throughout history

## 👤 A great power, but not exactly how you might think

- 👤 Yes, there is clearly a military aspect to this
- 👤 But there is also a financial aspect
- 👤 Presumably also a diplomatic aspect
- 👤 It seems the Beast is able to accomplish his goals often without direct military force
- 👤 Implies an even greater strength

## 👤 Power through money

- 👤 Has control of the economic system (e.g. **Revelation 13:17**)

# THE WORSHIP OF THE BEAST (V. 8)

## 👤 We see the (almost) universal nature of the Beast-worship

- 👤 Note that this does not imply political control the way we think of it
- 👤 “Petra” is not under his control
- 👤 “The kings of the east” seem to come against him
- 👤 Rather, he is a uniting force and item of worship
- 👤 Maybe this is closer to the Pope or the Dali Lama or a similar religious figure
- 👤 The ones not worshipping the Beast are following Christ and are not deceived (**Matthew 24:24**) but do so at their own peril

## 👤 Not in the Lamb’s Book of Life






- 👤 Were they never there, or were they taken out
- 👤 **Revelation 3:5** implies that people can be taken out
- 👤 **Hebrew 10:10** and **2 Peter 2:1** state that God died for all and that people reject that gift and Sacrifice
- 👤 The problem may become easier when we consider that God is not limited by our perception of time and cause and effect
- 👤 A better translation of “the book of life written from the foundation of the world” (Thomas v2, p. 166) aligns with **Ephesians 1:4**

## 👤 Note also specifically that the Lamb who was slain



- 👤 We again see the requisite death and (obvious) resurrection of Jesus
- 👤 The problem with theories (past and present) that Jesus did not die on the Cross is far more than just the Gospels
- 👤 All through the Bible
- 👤 Even in passages like this
- 👤 It is an identifier of Him and (if we are in Him) of us too (c.f. **Romans 6:1-4**; **2 Corinthians 5:15**)

# A WORD TO THE WISE (V. 9-10)






## Has an ear

-  Does mean anyone listening, but refers back to the previous set of verses
-  In other words, given everything that has just been said, this is what you, who are in this, need to do
-  We have now seen the nature and reason for persecution which comes via the Beast System
-  This last part deals with how those at that time are to respond in this situation
-  It is a call for faith and endurance in a very difficult time

## Similar call in **Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22** but this omits “to the churches”

-  Another indicator that, per Revelation 3:10, the Church will not be around for this period of time
-  There were people Justified before the Church, and there will be people Justified after the Church

## Captivity and slaying with the sword

-  A difficult passage which is also a challenge in the original language
-  More literal, “if anyone is for captivity, into captivity he departs; if anyone is to be killed by the sword, [it is necessary for] him to be killed by the sword” (Thomas v2, p. 167)
-  If this is a warning to the persecutors not to harm the saints, then this makes no sense. Victory of the saints is not mentioned until **Revelation 14:1-5** and the saints were the ones being addressed, not the persecutors.
-  It could be a warning to the saints not to try to fight the persecution because it will only make their suffering worse. Similar to **Matthew 26:52**
-  It could also be a message to the saints telling them to put their faith totally in God, understanding that the Beast exists here at God’s discretion and, thus, God is still in control and the saints must submit to God’s will in this matter. Similar to **Jeremiah 15:2; 43:11**

# WHY DO CHRISTIANS SUFFER?

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- 🏰 To glorify God (Daniel 3:16-18, 24-25)
- 🏰 Discipline for known sin (Hebrews 12:5-11; James 4:17; Romans 14:23; 1 John 1:9)
- 🏰 To prevent us from falling into sin (1 Peter 4:1-2)
- 🏰 To keep us from Pride (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
- 🏰 To build faith (1 Peter 1:6-7)
- 🏰 To cause growth (Romans 5:3-5)
- 🏰 To teach obedience and discipline (Acts 9:15-16; Philippians 4:11-13)
- 🏰 To equip us to comfort others (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)
- 🏰 To prove the reality of Christ in us (2 Corinthians 4:7-11)
- 🏰 For testimony to the angels (Job 1:8; Ephesians 3:8-11; 1 Peter 1:12)