



Αποκάλυψη
REVELATION




13:1-4

OUTLINE




- 📍 Main Point
- 📍 The Vision
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- 📍 Identification of the Beast (v. 1b)
- 📍 Horns, Heads, Crowns, and Names (v. 1c)
- 📍 Description of the Beast (v. 2)
- 📍 The Miraculous Wound (v. 3)
- 📍 Worship of the Dragon (v. 4)
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MAIN POINT



Here we see the emergence of the First Beast

-  Comes out of the Abyss, which here is viewed as the sea
-  Involves a person, commonly called the Antichrist, but also the System as a whole
-  Powerful, strong, and charismatic

Worship goes to the Dragon

-  This is Satan's final throw of the dice
-  We will see miracles performed
-  The emergence of a "Satanic Trinity"

We will learn about the supernatural powers behind governments and much of history

-  How we are to act
-  How we are to pray

THE VISION



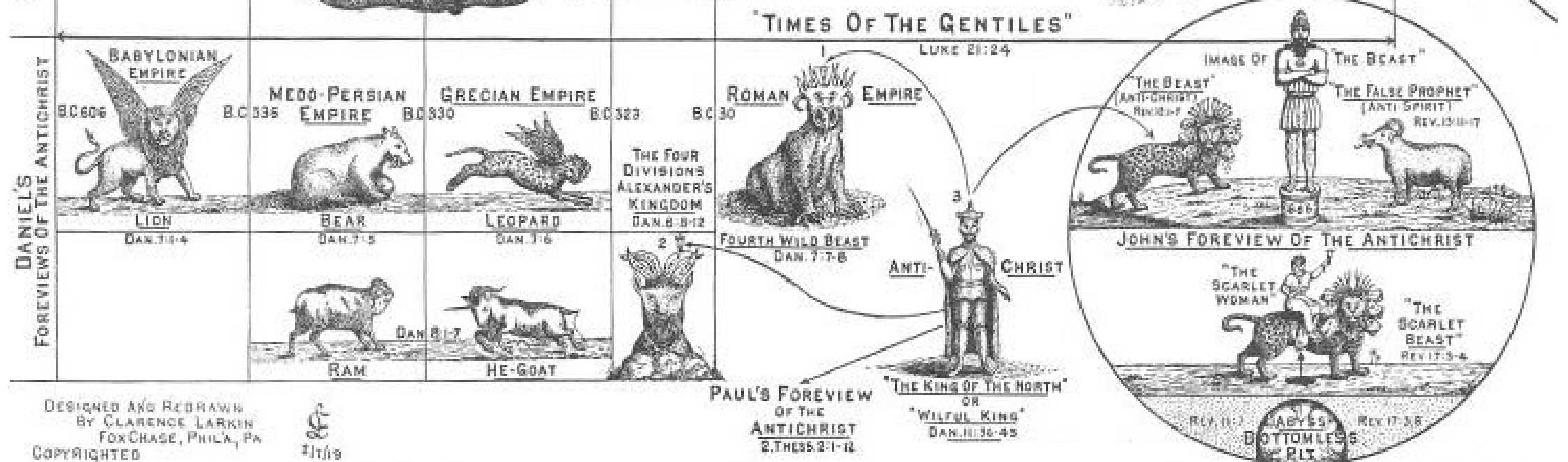
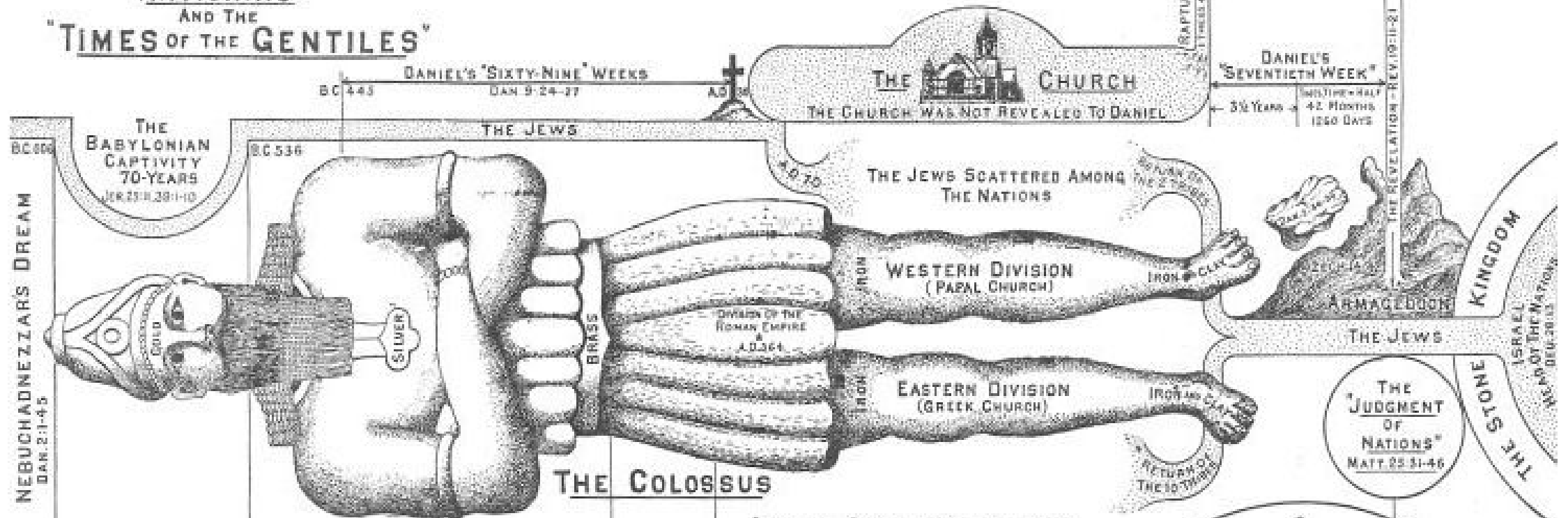
OUT OF THE SEA (V. 1A)

- 📍 No transition phrase or verse, so this is a continuation of the vision with the Women, et al.
 - 📍 Tells us what happens after the Dragon's failure to destroy the woman during the Tribulation
 - 📍 Will learn about his emissaries and their power that they turn against "her seed"
- 📍 The sea
 - 📍 Often used as a source or repository of evil in Scripture (e.g. **Micah 7:19**)
 - 📍 Worth considering this typologically; there will be no sea in the Eternal State (**Revelation 21:1**)
 - 📍 Used in distinction to the sand of the shore and shows the difference between Jews and Gentiles (c.f. **Genesis 32:12**)
 - 📍 Is the "Antichrist" a Jew or a Gentile?
 - 📍 Most literal meaning here appears to be that this is representative of the First Beast coming out of the Abyss
 - 📍 We know this happens in **Revelation 11:7** meaning that this is, most likely, not the literal sea
 - 📍 Would also tend to localize this prophecy and make the sea the Mediterranean
 - 📍 Given the global and eschatological aspects of **Revelation** this possibility does not seem likely
 - 📍 Would only fit if we identify the Beast as Rome in some aspect
 - 📍 As discussed later, this does not fit the content of the vision
 - 📍 Scripture compares the sea with the abyss (**Deuteronomy 30:13** c.f. **Romans 10:7**)
 - 📍 So, John is seeing in a spiritual sense the literal reality of this Beast coming from the Abyss

IDENTIFICATION OF THE BEAST (V. 1B)

- 📍 The beast (*thereon*) here is malicious, destructive, and seeks to harm with a primitive cunning
 - 📍 The word itself implies that this cannot be a vague force or spiritual concept
 - 📍 Not the totality of evil or the personification of a satanic plan
 - 📍 There is a personal quality to the title “beast”
 - 📍 However, there is an amalgamation here (e.g. the heads and crowns) which demonstrate that this is a person, but that person is also the head of a political system
- 📍 **Hypothesis 1: Nero.** Relies on the “seven hills” of **Revelation 17:9** and identifies Nero with the head that was wounded in **13:3**. But this is spurious history at best, and while there are similarities, Nero does not work here.
- 📍 **Hypothesis 2: The Roman Empire.** Relies on the description and succession of beasts in **Daniel 7**. However, this depersonalizes the *thereon* and Rome (past or future) does not fit the global character of what is described in this chapter. While there are some elements which fit the “revived Rome” (c.f. **Daniel 2:40-45; 7:23; 8:22**) after **Daniel 7:8**, the personal character of the Beast means this is not the full answer
- 📍 **Hypothesis 3: The End-Times False Christ.** Keeps the personal nature of *thereon* and can specifically personify him as the head in **3a** and **6** (not also the singular in both cases). However, there are also corporate, political issues that a single personal interpretation does not address.
- 📍 **Hypothesis 4: The false Christ and the broader system he runs in the End Times.** Amalgamates Hypothesis 2 and its future fulfillment with Hypothesis 3. Allows for the persona nature, but also acknowledges the crowns, horns, etc. that would be needed in a political sense.
- 📍 “The best solution to the problem appears to be a combination of the view that this is the revived Roman Empire and the view that this is the end-time false Christ. This final world empire will embody a satanically empowered individual who will present himself as a counterfeit Christ in order to deceive the earth-dwellers.” (Thomas v2, p. 154)

ANTICHRIST AND THE "TIMES OF THE GENTILES"














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HORNS, HEADS, CROWNS, AND NAMES (V. 1C)




Seven Horns and Ten Heads

-  Close relationship with the Dragon in **Revelation 12:3**
-  Close parallel between this vision and that in **Daniel 7**
-  Horns speak of power or government
 -  Ancient thought saw the strength or power of an animal as in its horns
 -  Here it is the final set of political entities that will make up the Beast System
 -  Can be typologically foreshadowed in the conquest of the Land under Joshua
-  Heads
 -  Seven empires which relate specifically to God's overall plan
 -  Not all empires through history, nor the the most "important", but the ones relevant to this prophecy
 -  This final political entity will come out of those
-  These empires, the horns, and heads will be discussed in greater length in **Revelation 17**

Crowns







-  Crowns (diadems) are here on the horns, not on the head as in **Revelation 12:3**
-  Shows that there is a difference between the two
-  Marks out the kings within the Beast System and subordinate to the Coming World Leader (c.f. **Revelation 17:12, 18**)

Names





-  Blasphemy as an insult to God
-  Specifically the assumption of deity to oneself (**2 Thessalonians 2:2-4; Revelation 13:5-6**)
-  Common for ancient kings to assume divinity

DESCRIPTION OF THE BEAST (V. 2)




Continues the parallels with Daniel 7

-  We see an amalgamation of the characteristics of these beast in this final beast
-  Note the inverted order here from Daniel 7
-  Lion = Babylon; the mouth of the lion is feared, it is strong, capable of devouring anything and roaring
 -  Note the speaking abilities in Daniel 7:11
-  Bear = Medo-Persia; strong, muscular, great paws for going anywhere, catching and killing prey; nothing and no one is safe
-  Leopard = Greeks; speed, conquered a massive empire in 10 years and spread their culture through the Middle East; Satan only has 3.5 years and needs to move fast with his system, rulers, and plans

Authority from the Dragon

-  There are spiritual forces and powers behind history, the present world, and past, present, and future systems
-  This will be a more extreme case of this concept
-  Satan will give power to this ruler, those under him, and the system as a whole
-  Includes but is not limited to commerce (v. 17), and life and death (v. 10)

Part of a Satanic Trinity

-  The Dragon in the place of God the Father
-  The First Beast in the place of God the Son
-  The Second Beast in the place of God the Holy Spirit

THE MIRACULOUS WOUND (V. 3)

🗨️ The wound and its healing

- 🗨️ Some equate this with the resurrection of Rome at some future point
- 🗨️ Could be valid, but that would not explain the personal nature of this (i.e., against a single head) or its alignment with **Zechariah 11:17**
- 🗨️ Is this a real “miracle”?
 - 🗨️ Nothing in the text indicates that it is not
 - 🗨️ In **2 Thessalonians 2:9** the word used is *teras* for “wonders” which is also used to describe the miracles of Jesus in **Acts 2:22** and elsewhere
 - 🗨️ If this is a true miracle or a simulacrum may be functionally irrelevant
- 🗨️ Given the interwoven nature of the Beast and the System, we can also infer that his personal qualities do a lot to hold the System together

🗨️ The result is people following after him

- 🗨️ “Proof” of his power and mandate
- 🗨️ People identify with him via the Mark (v. 16)

🗨️ Historic Types and Parallels

- 🗨️ A clear imitation of the death and resurrection of Jesus (note the wounds in **Revelation 5:6**)
- 🗨️ Antiochus IV
- 🗨️ Caligula was sick and recovered
- 🗨️ Nero was commonly thought to have died (by suicide) but to still be alive (however, this ideas does not appear in Christian writings until about the 5th Century) (Thomas v2, p. 158)

WORSHIP OF THE DRAGON (V. 4)

👤 Note that the Dragon, not the Beast, is worshiped here

👤 Beast worship will come (v. 15) but that comes later

👤 One could argue that the worship of the Beast and the Dragon are one and the same (c.f. 1 Corinthians 10:19-21) (Thomas v2, p. 158), but that is not what it says here, technically

👤 Recall also that these people are not deceived in who they are worshiping (c.f. Revelation 6:16)

👤 “Who is like the Beast”

👤 A mockery of God

👤 A play on the name of Michael, which means “Who is like God”

👤 An insult (blasphemy) which parallels 2 Thessalonians 2:4

👤 Consider this from the perspective of the Earth-dwellers

👤 They are constantly dying

👤 Know they are being judged

👤 Know that they can die and that God has the power of life and death (c.f. Revelation 9:5; 11:11)

👤 But now here is someone who, it appears, has the same power

👤 Now, they think, they have someone on par with God who can help them ultimately win in their rebellion against God

👤 And all because they do not want to give up their sin

LESSONS FOR US

- 📖 This passage, more than anything else, should drive home the spiritual dimension behind governments through history
 - 📖 Gives added weight to the command in **1 Timothy 2:1-2**
 - 📖 Helps change our perspective on our daily living and our priorities
- 📖 Better place the First Beast in the context of **Revelation** and the Eschatological Scenario
 - 📖 Most people only look at this passage in isolation
 - 📖 But when taken as a unit with the surrounding chapters and in the broader context of **Revelation** many oddities become clear
 - 📖 Context is not the only part of analysis, but much analysis fails because of improper assumptions or ignoring the context
- 📖 Study history
 - 📖 It is amazing what you can learn about the working of God just by opening a history book
 - 📖 You will be amazed what God will teach you if you put in a little effort for Him
 - 📖 Learning about the past can help you understand the future
 - 📖 Can also help dispel much of the speculation and misinformation that passes for prophetic analysis