

A SERIES THROUGH THE REVELATION

Revelation 13 Pt. 1—*The Antichrists Emergence, and Aggression* | 6.30.22

I. INTRODUCTION (Revelation 13:1-10)

- A. Well, I remember the day clearly, it was July 7th, 2007, or 07.07.07. In Nashville, TN, about 75k were gathered together at the Tennessee Titian stadium for The Call. This event was labeled as a, “*fast, not a festival.*”
- B. Thousands were gathering in the heart of a Nashville summer for 12 hours of worship, intercession, testimonies and prophetic declarations, as they were contending for revival in America.
- C. But, at the same time, there was another event happening simultaneously called, “Live Earth.” Live Earth, which was sponsored by Al Gore and others was said to be the largest music event of it’s kind in history. They assumed that around 1 billion people were gathered together across four continents, North America, Europe, South America and Asia, for 24 hours as concerts were held in tandem across the earth.
- D. It was a stark moment for me, as sober moment as this small band of believers were gathered in Nashville, and over 1 billion gathered globally in support of “mother earth.” It was a contrast of worship, that of the world, and that of God. One had big money, and the other was barely getting by. One had all the lights, bells and whistles, and one had a bare bones production to pull it off.
- E. 07.07.07 was simply a preview of where life is headed, towards a collision of worship movements, one to the earth and to humanity, and one to God, in heaven. One devoid of Christ, and one unto Christ. This is, **Revelation 13.**

II. THE EMERGENCE OF THE ANTICHRIST AND HIS AGGRESSION (Revelation 13:1-10)

- A. **Revelation 13:1-2** *Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. 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.*
 - 1. It’s important that we connect **Revelation 12:17** with **Revelation 13**. **Revelation 12:17** says, “*...The dragon...went to go make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*” And what we find right here in **Revelation 13** is how the dragon goes about making war: through the beast, the antichrist. This is the war strategy.
 - 2. For ancient Israel, the sea represented this large unknown mass that was filled with chaos. Unlike today, Israel was not a seafaring people. Historically they have two large sea-monsters that dwell in its depths. And alongside that, they weren’t able to measure the sea, so it represented an unmeasurable depth, filled with storms, something that was untamable, and leaving you at its mercy.
 - 3. That’s why John sees this beast coming up from the chaotic sea, from frothing humanity (**Revelation 17:1,15**)
 - 4. In the whole of the New Testament only in John’s letters is the word antichrist used. Paul and others speak of him also, but only John uses the word antichrist to speak of this coming beast (**1st Jn. 2:22; 4:3; 2nd Jn. 7**). John’s point is that many such antichrists have come, and will continue to come, but one day, the lowercase antichrists will give way to a capital A antichrist.
 - 5. All these precursors, all these historical and present-day figures will eventually give way to much more sinister, larger, evil, fully demonized person called the Antichrist.
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- a. I Saw A Beast Having Seven Heads, and Ten Horns— The seven heads are seven empires that persecuted Israel in the past and will again partner with the antichrist during his short 7 year campaign. The ten horns are ten kings (kingdoms) that will also partner with the antichrist during this time (**Dan. 7:7,20,24; Rev 17:3, 7, 9-11, 12**).
 1. But the other thing is, John is wanting us to connect the beast, with the dragon of **Revelation 12:3** (*they are one in the same*).
 - b. The Beast Was Like A Leopard—This is speaking of the swiftness of his global emergence, and dominance. It will take the world, maybe even the Church by surprise (**Lk. 21:35**).
 - c. The Beasts Feet Were Like A Bear—This is speaking about his strength politically, economically, and militarily. He will amass these three things unlike any other person in history.
 - d. The Beasts Mouth Was Like A Lion—This is speaking about his ability to devour his enemies, both verbally, and physically (**Joel 1:6-7; Dan. 7**).
6. The reason why John calls him a beast is because he's a composite, rabid animal. It's not that he's this or that, he's both this and that, he's a beast.
 7. Well, the beast isn't acting independently, he's receiving everything from his father, the dragon:
 - a. The Dragon Gave Him His Power—Satan will give the beast his power to preform great signs and wonders. This will be a supernatural power, deceptive power. This will enable the beast to preform lying signs and wonders in the public eye.
 - b. The Dragon Gave Him His Throne—The idea here is dominion, he's receiving the dragon's dominion over the earthly realm (**Matt. 4**).
 - c. The Dragon Gave Him Great Authority—This is the authority to rule, to take over nations, peoples, tongues, kings and queens.
- B. Revelation 13:3-4** *"And I saw one of his heads as it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all world marveled and followed the beast. So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"*
1. Life is headed towards a showdown, a public, global showdown between two groups of followers, those of the Lamb and those of the beast. It's a collision of global worship, one that's true, and one that's demonic.
 - a. One Of His Heads Was Mortally Wounded, And His Deadly Wound Was Healed—The beast will be mortally wounded and come back to life. This isn't a resurrection like Christ, but a resuscitation, but it will be in the spirit of a resurrection, a deceptive resuscitation that's made to look like a resurrection.
 1. His goal will be to mimic Christ, to imitate Christ. Just like John saw that the Lamb was slain in **Revelation 5:6**, here the beast will be "slain" and live.
 - b. And All The World Marveled And Followed The Beast—It's clear that his resuscitation is successful because it causes most of the earth to follow Him. The word marveled is the same word that was used of Jesus and His teachings and miracle ministry (**Matt. 8:27; 9:33; 15:31; Mk. 5:20**). But what's crazy here is that they do what the crowds did not do when Jesus was raised from the dead; follow Him.
 - c. So They Worshipped The Dragon...And They Worshipped The Beast—Finally, after thousands of years of human history, the devil gets what he wants, worship. Beloved, what will the earth be like when it's majority are openly worshipping satan, and a fully demonized man called the antichrist?
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d. (They Worship Saying) Who Is Like The Beast, and Who Can Make War With Him—First, satan is usurping God’s position as the only incomparable One. And secondly, the question is asked about war, but just previously, in **Revelation 12:7, 11**, we are told that both Michael and the saints overcome him.

1. Beloved, this is the nature of deception which the world will be steeped in, they will hear none of this, none. None of the Biblical narrative will matter to those that have been deceived that this isn’t a resurrection, but a deceptive resuscitation, that the beast isn’t incomparable and that he’s going to be defeated shortly with the breath of Christ, and the brightness of His appearing (**2nd Thess. 2:8**).

2. This will be the first time in human history that two messiahs are being preached, and attested to with confirming signs. Like Christ, the beast will have a mortal wound that’s healed. Like Christ, he will be worshipped, as they sing to the beast, the same song that the Church will be singing to the Lamb, “*who is like Him, and who can make war with Him?*”

a. a short list contrasting Jesus Christ and the antichrist;

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| 1. Christ comes from above (Jn. 6:38) | Antichrist ascends from the pit (Rev. 11:7;13:1) |
| 2. Christ comes in His father’s name (Jn. 5:43) | Antichrist comes in his own name (Jn. 5:43) |
| 3. Christ humbled Himself on earth (Phil. 2:8) | Antichrist exalts himself in his power (2nd Thess. 2:4) |
| 4. Christ was despised and rejected (Isa. 53:3) | Antichrist will be admired/worshipped (Rev. 13:3-4) |
| 5. Christ will finally be exalted (Phil. 2:9) | Antichrist will be cast to hell (Rev. 19:20) |
| 6. Christ came to do His Fathers will (Jn. 6:38) | Antichrist comes to do his own will (Dan. 11:36) |
| 7. Christ came to save the lost (Luke 19:10) | Antichrist comes to destroy the lost (Dan. 8:24) |
| 8. Christ is the Good Shepherd (Jn. 10:1-15) | Antichrist is the false shepherd (Zech. 11:16) |
| 9. Christ is the true Vine (Jn. 15:1) | Antichrist is the vine of the earth (Rev. 14:18) |
| 10. Christ is the Truth (Jn. 14:6) | Antichrist is the ultimate liar (2nd Thess. 2:11) |
| 11. Christ is the Man of Sorrows (Isa. 53:3) | Antichrist is the man of sin (2nd Thess. 2:3) |
| 12. Christ is the 2 nd Person of the Holy Trinity | Antichrist is the 2 nd person of the unholy trinity |
| 13. Christ has a pure bride; holy and chaste | Antichrist has an apostate church/harlot or a whore |

C. **Revelation 13:5-6** “And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blasphemy His name. His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.”

1. It’s clear, both here, and in the various other places we’ve looked at previously, that God is the unnamed Agent behind this “giving”, it’s something coming from God, it’s a delegated authority.

a. His Mouth Was Speaking Great Things And Blasphemies—This word means to slander the name of God, and it refers to beast claiming himself to be God and demanding the nations worship him, instead of God. They are great words because of his self-proclamation.

b. And He Was Given Authority To Continue For Forty-Two Months—This timeframe that the beast is “given” by God is clearly 3.5 years in total. This is all he gets, no more and no less. God is the One in control, not the antichrist, and the Church needs to know this, which is why God gives John these numbers.

1. The reason the Church needs these timeframes is because in that hour, it won’t seem like delegated authority, or limited in scope, it will feel unlimited, and unending.

c. He Blasphemy’s God’s Name—He’s usurping God’s name, desiring that he also be worshipped in the same way as God. Jesus taught in **Matthew 6**, that His name is to be hallowed/set apart.

- d. He Blasphemy's His Tabernacle—This is a slander of God's eternal kingdom, the holy of holies, where God Himself dwells. He's working to tear down the New Jerusalem, because he's building his own tabernacle, he's creating his own New Jerusalem that's a counterfeit. He's tearing down God's dwelling, to erect his own.
- e. He Blasphemy's Those Who Dwell In Heaven—This is speaking about those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, those who live on earth, but actually dwell in heaven. This is about a people whose citizenship isn't on earth, but with God, in heaven, waiting for a city Whose Builder and Maker is God (**Hebrews 11:10**).

D. Revelation 13:7-8 *"It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of world."*

1. Once again, we see that the beast receives delegated authority from God, but this time it's to make war with the saints. It would be one thing if all he did was make war, but the Bible is clear, he's given power to also overcome them.
 - a. **Daniel 7:7, 21, 25** *"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 different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns...I was watching; and the same horn was making war with the saints and prevailing against them...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."*
2. We're told that all who dwell on the earth will worship him, at least those whose names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life. The beast's influence stops with the earth dwellers, as he will have nothing over the Church (**Jn. 14:30**). The beast's game will be to hold captive the earth dwellers spiritually.
3. How do we overcome? How do we stand in resistance to the beast, and his bestial empire? We do it by knowing that our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Beloved, this brings about great confidence in our lives to know this, we are secure in God's hands!

E. Revelation 13:9-10 *"If anyone has an ear, let him hear. He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the faith and the patience of the saints."*

1. Beloved, this is the divine pause in-between verses. This is God's way of saying, "Church, family of God, listen to Me, this is serious, it's trouble unlike any other time in human history, and you must have clarity and sobriety about this hour. You can't casually walk into the future. You must have eyes wide open, both to heaven, the Word of God, and what's happening around you."
2. If your passionate for the truth, if your ears are hungry for the things of God, then listen up, it's far more serious than the Church makes it out to be. The forerunner community has to fully digest these words, so that we can help lead God's family into the future. They have to touch us, before God can use them through us to touch others.
 - a. He Who Leads Into Captivity, Shall Go Into Captivity; He Who Kills With The Sword, Must Be Killed With The Sword—This is an invitation to the family of God to join the sufferings of Christ, to enter into the sufferings of Jesus (**Phil. 3:10**). This could read also, "he who is lead into captivity, shall go into captivity, and he who is killed with the sword, shall be killed with the sword."

1. The idea here is that the saints are called to speak out against this wicked system, they are called to correct its deception, to try and reach people, they are called to refuse the mark of the beast, and not join it's system, but when it comes to death, suffering and persecution, we are to accept this as our lot. At this moment, it's a time of pacifism.
 - i. I don't think pacifism is needed all the time, like right now, but at this time, it's different, because God has given us over to the beast empire, and he's given the beast empire power to break the power of the Holy people.
- b. Here Is The Faith And The Patience Of The Saints-- There is a day of divine retribution coming, but until that day comes, the Day of The Lord, we will have to wait alongside those who have already been martyred in **Revelation 6:9-11**, who are also instructed to wait for that coming Day.
 1. But beloved, it will take endurance to see that coming Day. This is why a strong exhortation is given towards enduring faith, or persevering faith, or faith that persists over long periods of time. This is the patient endurance of the saints, a people trusting God in the midst of global upheaval.