

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 13

The Beast and the Antichrist

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Chapter 13 — The Beast and the False Prophet

Chap. 13:1-2 — The Beast

The revived Roman Empire in its final form under Satanic control (see Luke 4:5-7). As seen by men the crowns are on the ten horns, not on the heads as with the dragon (12:3).

Chap. 13:3

The Imperial head is healed, causing all the world to wonder.

Chap. 13:4

Satan receives worship because of the power given by him to the Beast. None is able to make war with the Beast for Satan is stronger than man and can supply the Beast with greater weapons than man could invent.

Chap. 13:5-7

The time of the Beast's power to blaspheme and persecute is limited by God — 42 months (three and a half prophetic years).

Chap. 13:8 — Apostate Christendom

Designated by a moral expression used ten times, i.e. 'those that dwell upon the earth', worship the Beast, their names never having been written from the foundation of the world in the slain Lamb's book of life. They are those who received not the love of the truth that they might be saved (2 Thess. 2:10-12).

Chap. 13:9-10

The saints were not to take power into their own hands as retribution from God would overtake the Beast.

Chap. 13:11 — The Antichrist

As imitator of Christ's power as king and prophet — two horns are seen. Christ has seven (5:6). This beast is the Lawless One (2 Thess. 2:8) and the willful king (Dan. 11:36), and the Antichrist of 1 John 2:22.

Chap. 13:12-17

The second Beast acts in conjunction with the first and directs worship to him. He is thus the false priest as well as prophet (chap. 19:20).

Chap. 13:18

In that day the wise will understand what is not clear to us now (see Dan. 12:10). God in faithfulness will warn His own. Six, being short of seven, the number of completeness, is the number of man emphasized here as 666.