

1/18/15

The Real Monster Revelation 13

I. The Beast's Profile – 13:1-3

1. The Beast rises out of the sea – 1
Sea refers to the sea of humanity – 17:1, 15
Note also Daniel 7:2, 3
2. Beast has 7 heads and 10 horns – 1
Note similarity with Dragon in Rev. 12:3
Beast is linked to the Dragon, in his kingdom
7 heads represent 7 kings or kingdoms – 17:9-10
These are different phases of the same beast
Satan's system has long oppressed God's people
Five are fallen, one is, one is yet to come
Who are these 7 monster-like oppressors?
5 are past – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia & Greece
1 is present in John's time – Rome
1 is yet to come – Final form of this great beast
3. Final form incorporates the past – 2
Leopard bear & lion of Daniel 7:4-6
Leopard = Greece; Bear = Persia; Lion = Babylon
Other 2 oppressors are Egypt and Assyria
4. Final form has 10 horns with crowns – 1
10 horns are kings linked to final form – 17:12-14
5. Beast-like system is opposed to God – 1
Upon its heads the name of blasphemy – cp. v. 6
6. Dragon is the power behind the beast – 2
Gives beast his power, throne & authority
7. Wounded to death but healed to reappear - 3
Beast is defeated but resurfaces in another form
Another head appears but it is the same beast
8. System has always opposed God's people
Paul warns of "mystery of iniquity" – 2 Thess. 2:3-12
It is already actively at work
Man of sin will be final form of this beast-system
John warns of "spirit of antichrist" – 1 John 4:3-4
He links it to the world system in 1 John 2:15-18
9. Beast in Rev. 13 is final form of this system
Antichrist or man of sin is the human leader

II. The Beast's Power – 13:2-8

1. Beast is empowered by Satan – 2
Dragon gave him his power, throne & authority
It is clear that this is part of Satan's kingdom
Human kingdoms empowered by Satan
Satan is angry (12:12, 17) empowers final form
2. Recuperative power produces worship – 3-4
People are amazed by the power of the dragon
They worship the dragon and the beast
In awe of power of Satan, seems invincible
See beast as Messiah, their hope, antichrist
3. Power to blaspheme God for 3 ½ yrs – 5, 6
Speaks against God, His name, His tabernacle

- And all those who dwell with Him in heaven
He is opposed to who God is and all He does
Allowed to continue his blasphemy 42 months
4. Power to make war, overcome saints – 7
As in days of Moses, Esther or the Church
Many have been persecuted, slain by beast
Many more will yet be slain in this final form
 5. Power to rule over the nations – 7-8
He will rule and they will worship him
Worshippers do not include God's people

III. The Promise of God – 13:9-10

1. Listen, don't miss what God is saying – 9
Similar to what we saw in Rev. 2 & 3
2. God will defeat beast, bring victory – 10
God avenges His own who suffer Satan's attacks
Beast who takes captives will be taken captive
One who kills with the sword will also be killed
Beast is cast into the lake of fire – Rev. 19:20
3. God's people need patience & faith - 10
Trust God, wait for Him to execute justice – 10
Don't fret, trust God for ultimate victory

IV. Description of False Prophet – 13:11

1. Jesus warned of false prophets – Matt. 24:11
2. Peter & John also – 2 Pet. 2:1; 1 Jn. 4:1
3. Another beast comes on the scene – 13:11
Word "another" speaks of one of the same kind
Like the first beast & a part of Satan's system
4. He comes up out of the earth – 11
In contrast to the first coming out of the sea
Some have linked this to the land "Israel"
Possible he is a Jew but not definite
5. He has two horns like a lamb - 11
Appearance deceptive "Wolf in sheep's clothing"
6. He spoke as a dragon
His message belies his appearance
He is the dragon's (Satan's) spokesman
His message is filled with lies and deception
Called the false prophet – 16:13; 19:20; 20:10
7. Satan loves to counterfeit what God does
He has his antichrist and his false prophet
There is an evil triumvirate – note 16:13

V. Deception of False Prophet – 12-17

1. Like 1st beast he is empowered by Satan – 12
There is a sharing of Satanic authority & power
2. His mission is to exalt the first beast – 12
He calls people to worship this first beast
Much like Holy Spirit focuses attention on Christ
3. His message accompanied with miracles
Healing of deadly wound focuses on beast - 12
He does great wonders (signs, miracles) – 13
He brings fire down on earth from heaven – 13
These miracles will be seen and widely known

4. With these miracles he deceives many – 14
Satan's supernatural power can be impressive
All he does is designed to promote the beast
5. Gets men to make image of beast - 14
Says revived beast is worthy of honor, praise
6. He made image appear to be alive – 15
The image was able to speak
Able to kill all who would not worship
7. He institutes mark of the beast – 16-17
Required mark is for all people of every class
The mark is in the hand or on their forehead
Mark is required for all commercial transactions

VI. Discerning the Enemy – 13:18

1. A number seems to be part of this mark
The number is 666
It is also referred to as "man's number"
May refer to man's system rather than God's
2. Humanistic philosophy part of this system
Men encouraged to look to human resources
Work together we can solve all problems
We do not need God to meet our needs
3. Mark or number will be known in time
2 Thess. 2:8 indicates we might not know now