

## **REVELATION 13**

Though the seventh trumpet was recorded in 11:15 as sounding, the details of what will come out of the seventh trumpet are not revealed until chapter 16. In chs. 12 & 13 we take a break from the chronological order to examine 7 key players who are involved in the second half of the seven-year period.

In chapter 12 we saw (1) “*woman clothed with the sun*” representing the nation of Israel (Rev. 12:1-3); (2) The red dragon with 7 heads and 10 horns, representing Satan. (3) the male Child, representing Christ (12:5-6); (4) the archangel Michael, casting Satan out of heaven (12:7-12); (5) the offspring of the woman, persecuted by the dragon (12:13-17);

In chapter 13 we gain an insight into the unholy trinity Satan establishes as he raises up and empowers the Antichrist and his False Prophet: (6) the beast out of the sea, the future world dictator (13:2-10); (7) the beast out of the earth, the false prophet (13:11-18). These chapters do not advance the narrative chronologically, but present events and situations that are concurrent with the soundings of the trumpets. We pick up the chronological progress of events in chapter 16.

**vv. 1-10** mention the last 2 of the 7 personages chs. 12-13 look at. Two people here: the coming world leader (“the beast”) and his false prophet: the OT has 33 different titles and the NT 13 diff. titles for these two guys. The world will love this charismatic political figure; *anti-* in the Greek can mean “in the place of” or “instead of;” though we think of it meaning “opposed to;” in Latin, the term is *vicarius*: a substitute for or representative of; the Pope has *vicar* embroidered on his garments – BUT is he really our Substitute?

John in this book never uses the title “Antichrist;” other writers like Paul call him the “son of perdition.”

**v. 1: “Beast (*therion*) with 10 horns, 7 heads, 10 crowns”** – just as Satan has (see 12:3,9); in other words, Satan gives all his power and authority to the Beast. Satan had originally promised these to JESUS:

- Luke 4:5-7 “*The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours.'*”
- Rev. 17:12 “*“The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.”*”

“**Sea**” is a biblical idiom of the nations of the earth; prob. a Gentile.

**v. 2: “Leopard....bear....lion”** = Refers back to Daniel’s vision (Dan. 7:2-7) and combines elements of Greece, Medo-Persia, Babylon and Rome. The Treaties of Paris (1952) and Rome (1958) established the Common Market, now known as the E.U. (European Union); until 1993 it had been known as the European Community. Today it includes 27 member nations; Greece became the tenth member in 1981. The Maastricht Treaty (approved 1993), provided for the gradual creation of a single currency, a European Central Bank, and Community-wide citizenship. More than 130 countries maintain diplomatic relations with the EU. More than 40% of U.S. investment abroad and a quarter of all U.S. exports go to EU nations. Its HQ are in Brussels, the capitol of Belgium. Population of 495 million.

Perhaps “G-8” will become G-10? G8 brings together the heads of the richest industrialized nations: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, USA and Canada (since 1976); the President of the E.U. (since ’81) and Russia was added in 1998. China and other nations have been invited to participate from time to time...

**v. 2b: “Dragon gave the beast his power, throne, great authority”** - Satan invests the Antichrist with his power, etc. -- cf. Satan with Jesus in Luke 4:5-8 “*The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So, if you worship me, all this will be yours.'* Jesus answered, *'It is written, Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'*” (Dt. 6:13).

v. 3: “**fatal head wound**” = assassination attempt. Zec. 11:17, “*woe to the worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! May his arm be completely withered, his right eye totally blinded!*” Prob. a counterfeit (see word in 1 Cor.) miracle: only God has the power over death and hell.

2 Thess. 2:9 “*The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie.*”

The Supreme Ayatollah Khamenei “was the victim of an attack aimed to assassinate him in June 1981 which **paralyzed his right arm**.” Agence France-Presse, 2009-06-20 and an article by Maziar Bahari (April 6, 2007). “[How Ayatollah Khamenei Keeps Control](#)”. [Newsweek](#). SEE KHAMENEI\_\_1981 in hospital...

v. 5 “**42 months**” is 3 ½ years, the last half of the 7-year Tribulation period encompassing Rev. 6-19.

“**Was given**” mentioned 4 x’s in vv. 5-7 is PASSIVE in voice; Satan empowers this guy; God allows it. Nero and Hitler were types of the Antichrist.

v. 7: “**make war against the saints and to conquer them.**” CAN’T BE THE CHURCH! Cf. Jesus’ promise to Peter: Mat 16:18 “*And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome (Greek: nikao) it.*”

“**Make war**” - cf. 12:17; Dan. 7:7, 24-25. “*4th beast... iron teeth, crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had 10 horns.... the 10 horns are 10 kings who will come from this final kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue 3 kings. He will speak against the Most High and oppress His saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times, and 1/2 a time” (3 1/2 years).*”

v. 8 Satan has always desired to be worshiped: Isa. 14:13f; Mt. 4:8ff; Lk. 4:5-8.

v. 9: “**He who has an ear, let him hear.**” Doesn’t include the phrasing, “*to the churches*”?! Same phrase with “*...what the Spirit says to the churches*” (2:7,11,17, 29; 3:6,13,22). Church not seen on earth again until chapter 19, when we return to earth with Jesus! Question: How’d we get up there?!

vv. 11-15 Deal with the False Prophet, the 2<sup>nd</sup> beast, coming up out of the earth...(Ezek. 28:10 implies he is of the circumcision: he may be a JEW!). Here called the “2<sup>nd</sup> beast,” later called the “false prophet” in 16:13; 19:20; 20:10; he is a major world religious figure; one beast is a civil ruler; the other a religious figure. Between Satan’s empowering, the Antichrist and the False Prophet, you have a unholy, satanic trinity!

v. 11: “**Another beast**” = the personal false prophet; symbolizes religious power in the service of secular authorities. Jesus warned of false prophets, wolves in sheep’s clothing (Mt. 7:15). He masquerades as meek, humble, gentle, peace-loving; a veritable “angel of light” (2 Cor. 11:14). Interestingly, the word for “earth” is the word *ge*. Actually his nationality and geographic origin are not indicated.

Moses had his Aaron; Jesus had His John the Baptist; like the Madhi has his Amadinijad, so the Antichrist will have his religious front man (false prophet). Is the Supreme Ayatollah Khamenei the A/C and Amadinejad his “mouthpiece”?

The Prophet Muhammad's close friend and advisor, Abu Bakr, became the first Caliph of the Islamic nation. The word "Sunni" in Arabic comes from a word meaning "one who follows the traditions of the Prophet."

The Shia Muslims believe that following the Prophet Muhammad's death, leadership should have passed directly to his cousin/son-in-law, Ali. Throughout history, Shia Muslims have not recognized the authority of elected Muslim leaders, choosing instead to follow a line of Imams which they believe have been appointed by the Prophet Muhammad or God Himself. The word "Shia" in Arabic means a group or supportive party of people. The commonly-known term is shortened from the historical "Shia-t-Ali," or "the Party of Ali."

The Supreme Ayatollah’s full name is **Sayed Ali Hoseyni Khāmene’i** (guttural CH, then “homin-EE); he is Shia’.

v. 13: **“Great and miraculous signs”** - Jesus (Mt. 24:24): *“False christs and prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect - if that were possible.”*

2 Thess. 2:9: *“The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders...”*

**“Fire from Heaven”** – mimics the supernatural power of God’s 2 witnesses (Rev. 11) before being killed by the Antichrist, but raised by God! Elijah did the same: 1 Ki. 18:24-39 Ahab & Elijah and 450 prophets of Baal; also 2 Ki. 1:9ff Ahaziah, Ahab’s son; captain and 50 men with Elijah. The priests of Pharaoh also mimicked the miracles of Moses and Aaron (cf. Exodus 7:8ff; 2 Timothy 3:8 “Jannes & Jambres”).

v. 14: **“set up an image”** - Abomination of Desolation: Dan. 3:1-11 (Nebuchadnezzar decreed the same); note the statue was “60 cubits high and 6 cubits wide:” note the significance of the sixes: the number of Man).

Dan. 11:36ff - Antiochus Epiphanes IV referred to (175-164 BC); prefigures the Antichrist. Jesus spoke of it as future of HIS time (Mt. 24:15).

Dan. 9:27: *“He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven’. In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the Temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”*

2 Thess. 2:4: *“man of lawlessness...he will appear and exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s Temple, proclaiming himself to be God.”*

Today we have animal and human cloning, bio-mechanical interfaces (bio-computer hard drive experiments), nano-technology, etc. Just about anything is possible; we have technologically rebuilt the Tower of Babel (see Gen. 11:1-9, esp. v. 6 *“nothing will be impossible for them”*). This always happens just prior to JUDGMENT! “Tell them, *‘Judgment is coming; it is, even now, right at the door’*.” In my prayer time today, the LORD said, *“Sound the alarm; you are a watchman on the wall; warn them judgment is coming!”*

v. 15 Mimics the breath of God breathed into Adam at Creation (Gen. 2:7).

v. 16 The mark, seal or brand. An advertisement several years ago in the Los Angeles Times said, "In the beginning there was money, and it was good. But now a better system." We see the increasing need for a cash-less and credit/debit card-less society; the need for security against theft identity, etc. will drive it. Drawbacks of cash and credit cards: they can be lost, stolen or identity theft. “Smart cards” – with embedded computer chips - first came out in France 20 years ago! Household pets have had implantable chip technology available for years Bar code technology? Laser? Like Disneyland’s “invisible” ink tag?

v. 17 Technology has made this possible today: smart cards; embedded chips (used in cattle, dogs); nano-technology. its not YOUR name/number; its HIS! Taking on HIS identity! If you take his mark, you CANNOT BE SAVED! (see 14:9-11).

v. 18 **“666”** – six represents Man. In Greek and Hebrew the letters were used to represent numerical values as well (*gematria*). Scripture explains it: appears 2 times as the salary of Solomon! Idolatry comes through Dan, though Solomon introduced it! The “star of David” (6 points, 6 sides) came into being during the 14<sup>th</sup> c. AD! Previously called the shield of Solomon!

The only PHYSICAL description of the Antichrist is found in Zec. 11:15ff – “the idol shepherd” – poss. Jewish; poss. head wound which leaves one arm useless and one eye blind.

The world wants a world without the Living God; where Man is in control, not God. When Israel wanted a king, it was because they had rejected GOD; it will happen again globally! And God will give it to them. Forget about trying to figure out who the Antichrist is; we anticipate the arrival of JESUS CHRIST! And we won’t be on earth (2 Thess 2).

## SUMMARY / APPLICATION / RESPONSE

- We live in an age where we see biblical prophecy being fulfilled. Rom. 1:18-32 outline our times (read).