

# Revelation 13

## I. Chapter 13 - The 2 Beasts

- A. The last scene in the chapter tells us that Satan went off to make war. The next chapter shows "how" he makes war, by raising up "beasts"

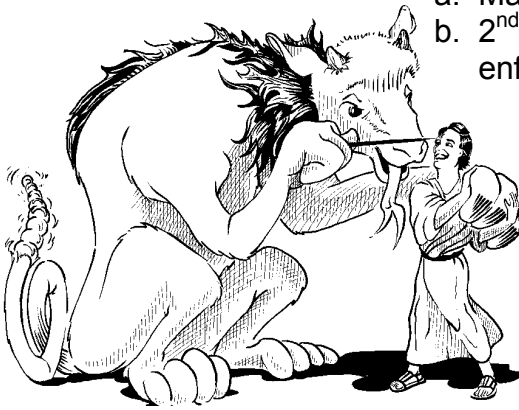


## B. The 1<sup>st</sup> Beast, Sea Beast

1. Dan 7:2 -
  - a. These beasts represent human societies
  - b. They came from the sea
  - c. The beast is not divine, but comes from human society
2. v. 3 - The healed wound
  - a. Nero was assassinated and Rome was in confusion
    - 1) Nero nearly bankrupted the empire
    - 2) There were 3 emperors in one year after his assassination
    - 3) It wasn't until Vespasian took the throne that the empire was stabilized
  - b. It might have appeared that Rome was falling apart, but it came back strong
3. Lessons about the Devil
  - a. v.1 - He uses human agents
  - b. v.1-2 - Uses intimidation
  - c. v.1, 3, 4 - Displays power and authority
  - d. v. 5- Satan is limited ("given" only 42 months)
  - e. v.7 - Appears to win, but will ultimately lose
  - f. v.8 - Has a large following
4. v.8 - From the foundation of the world - Redemption is not an afterthought, but the grand forethought.
5. v.10 - Difficult times are coming
  - a. Calls for endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints
  - b. Purpose of chapter 13 is to encourage faithfulness

C. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Beast, Land Beast

1. Also mentioned in 16:13; 19:20; 20:10 as the "false prophet"
2. v.12 - Exercised authority of the first beast



- a. Made people worship the first beast (which was Rome)
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> beast refers to the "Concilia," whose job was to enforce emperor worship
    - 1) Annual duty to worship Ceasar as lord
    - 2) Would oversee the worship and give an certificate saying that the worshipper performed his duty
    - 3) The certificate became like a "pass," showing a person to be a Roman in good standing and enabled him to engage in business and other affairs
    - 4) (v.15) Refusal to worship Ceasar often resulted in death
3. v.13 - Performed great signs
    - In Ex 7-8 , Pharaoh's magicians performed signs too
  4. v.14 - Deceived the world performing false miracles
    - a. Mark 13:22
    - b. 2 Thess 2:8-9 - False wonders
  5. v.16-17 - The Mark - Probably a reference to the certificate received from the Concilia
    - a. Buy, sell, trade - Lack of the certificate often meant exclusion from the official trade guilds
    - b. Without certificate, could not engage in public life
  6. Those who worshipped were given 3 things (v.17-18)
    - a. A Mark - Identifier of loyalty to Ceasar
    - b. A Name - Name of the beast, showing ownership
    - c. A Number - Man's number, 666

## D. The 2 Beasts, the Dragon's Allies

*The Dragon's Allies and their Means*

Satan's Allies	Their Means	Significance to the First Century	Timeless Application
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Beast</b> (Sea Beast)	Power and Pressure (political power)	Roman Empire Headed by the Emperor	Intimidation, Persecution, Peer Pressure
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Beast</b> (Land Beast, the "False Prophet")	False Teaching and trickery (Anti-Christian Religious)	The Concilia Agency to Enforce Emperor Worship	Deception: False teachings and false philosophies

E. Lessons about the Devil

1. He uses deception
  - a. v.11 - Like a "lamb"
  - b. v.13 - Performs signs
2. Makes people worship false gods through threat
3. Uses discrimination (v.17)