



# The Revelation of Jesus Christ

"Seven Heads are Better than One"

13:1-4

When he tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Satan showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and then said to the Lord,

Matthew 4:9 "... All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

From his own lips we learn two things about Satan:

1. He establishes certain kingdoms, and
2. He desires to be worshipped.

There might be a connection between these two things. Certain kingdoms of the world actually seem to be an attempt by Satan to *inspire* and *enforce* mankind to worship him.

Let me give you an example. When Nebuchadnezzar ruled the kingdom of Babylon, he constructed an image of himself to inspire his subjects to worship him. If he couldn't inspire you to worship his

image, he could enforce you to do so by throwing you into a fiery furnace!

Nebuchadnezzar and his image in Babylon were a foreshadowing of what is coming in the future when Satan will attempt to inspire and enforce mankind to worship him through a kingdom. All of this and more are in chapter thirteen of the Revelation. You're shown a beastly prince who inspire the worship of Satan during the Great Tribulation.

I'd like to read verse one of chapter thirteen in the NIV. It says,

Revelation 13:1 And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea...

The "dragon" is Satan and it is he who is standing "on the shore of the sea" having been thrown down to the earth at the end of chapter twelve. On earth he has been preparing two "beast[s]" that will do his bidding. The first, described in the first ten verses of chapter thirteen, is the man we commonly call the antichrist. The other is the false prophet who, for a time, aids the antichrist.

Revelation 13:1 ...He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

Although called a "beast" this is a description of a man. Each of these symbols is specifically defined for you in chapter seventeen.

- The "ten horns" are identified as ten kings who are united by this one man.
- The "seven heads" are the seven hills of the city in which his power resides. Rome is universally known throughout history as the city of the seven hills; thus this is often thought to be a confederation of ten nations or ten world regions based in Rome ruled over by Satan's beastly prince.
- The "seven heads" also represent seven kingdoms in world history. Turn to Revelation 17:10, where you read,

Revelation 17:10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.

*This is not difficult to understand!* When the Scripture says “one [kingdom] is,” that is a reference to the Roman Empire that existed when the apostle John wrote the Revelation. The five kingdoms that have “fallen” are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece. The one that is “not yet come” is the future ten nation or region confederacy ruled by Satan’s beastly prince from Rome.

Turn back to chapter thirteen. The beast had “on his heads a blasphemous name.” These kingdoms were blasphemous; they were ones through which Satan sought to inspire and enforce people to worship him in blasphemy to God Who alone is worthy to be worshipped.

All of the details I’ve just given you are important, but here is a simple summary of what verse one is saying: In the future, during the Great Tribulation, there will be a revived Roman Empire, ruled by Satan’s beastly prince, which will be Satan’s final attempt in a long line of attempts at a kingdom through which he can inspire and enforce mankind to worship him.

Daniel chapter nine clearly states that the antichrist will be of the people who destroyed the Temple in the first century. That would be Rome.

What we sometimes fail to remember is that the Roman Empire was more than just Europe. When we talk about the revived Roman Empire it includes parts of the Middle East and Africa and Turkey.

Although the Roman soldiers who participated in the destruction of the temple were 'Roman citizens they were not necessarily Europeans because the Roman legions that laid siege against Jerusalem were stationed in the Middle East. One source says,

On 14 April 70, during Passover, Titus laid siege to Jerusalem. To the northeast of the old city, on Mount Scopus, the legions XII Fulminata (a new addition from Syria) and XV Apollinaris shared a large camp; V Macedonica was camped at a short distance. When X Fretensis arrived from Syria, it occupied the Mount of Olives, in front of the Temple.<sup>1</sup>

Walid Shoebat and Joel Richardson write:

Indeed, the majority of the "Roman" soldiers that destroyed Jerusalem were Arabs, Syrians and Turks. When we look at the four Roman legions that were under Titus during the siege against Jerusalem, we see that they were from the Eastern portion of the Empire and were primarily from Syria or eastern Turkey.

The people of the Antichrist are not Europeans but Middle Eastern. All historical accounts point mainly to the Syrians.

The Syrians of the first century are not the Syrians of modern times who are Arabs. The Syrians of Roman times were "Assyrians" in native identity and cultural heritage.

The Syrians who destroyed the Temple in 70AD were Assyrians who lived in the Syrian province of the Roman Empire during the first century. The Syrians of today are ethnically Arabs whereas the preserved Assyrian people who for the most part live in Iraq, Syria and Turkey are not Arabs ethnically.

That is in total agreement with the Bible which should be our final authority in identifying the people of the antichrist. The antichrist is called the "Assyrian" in Isaiah 10:5, 14:25, 30:30-33, and Micah 5:5-6.

As we have noted in a couple of our prophecy updates, students and scholars of Bible prophecy are starting to take notice of passages that put more emphasis on the antichrist as a middle eastern man, in fact, an Assyrian.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.livius.org/ja-jn/jewish\\_wars/jwar04.html](http://www.livius.org/ja-jn/jewish_wars/jwar04.html)

Europe is quickly becoming dominated by Islam. It's easy to see how a Revived Roman Empire will be an Islamic Empire. It is rising just as predicted.

Revelation 13:2 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.

The animals listed here are the ones that the prophet Daniel used to represent certain kingdoms of the world.

- The "leopard" was Greece;
- The "bear" was Medo-Persia;
- The "lion" was Babylon.

You're simply being told that the world-ruling kingdoms of Bible history were previous attempts by Satan to inspire and enforce worship of himself. The final world-ruling kingdom of the Revelation will be the culmination of all his attempts, for it says that "the dragon" is behind it.

I am calling the antichrist the beastly prince. You see him called the "beast" in this chapter. Daniel chapter nine calls him the "prince." He actually has about forty-six descriptive names in the Bible - thirty-three in the Old Testament and thirteen in the New Testament. All of them refer to this future ruler of the revived Roman Empire.

Revelation 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

The beastly prince is a man, a world leader, who may be alive today. In the middle of the Tribulation it seems he will be mortally wounded but come back from the dead. In Revelation 17:8 seems to verify that he does indeed die only to come back:

Revelation 17:8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will

marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Think of the impact the assassination of President John F. Kennedy had on our nation and the whole world. The assassination of this future charismatic world leader will be even more impactful. Then he will suddenly (and seemingly miraculously) be raised from the dead.

Some argue that the antichrist doesn't really die but only seems dead. But the word used means a violent death. He's going to be dead - *not just mostly dead!*

Does Satan have the power to raise him from the dead? No; but God will permit Satan to raise his false Christ to further deceive the world.

It is while he is in the bottomless pit that he is completely energized by Satan.

Revelation 13:4 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?"

His restoration to life will inspire unbelievers to openly worship both the beastly prince and Satan. He will embody all of their ungodly hopes for the future. Remember, the Tribulation has been going on for three and one-half years, and unbelievers are looking for relief rather than repentance.

People are obsessed with trying to figure out who the antichrist is. **We won't know!** That is, believers will not know who the antichrist is before we are raptured.

In Second Thessalonians 2:1-3 you read,

2 Thessalonians 2:1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,  
2 Thessalonians 2:2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

Paul wrote to clear up some confusion in Thessalonica. Evidently someone had taught them they were already in the Great Tribulation. Paul said no, they weren't, and one reason they weren't was that the Great Tribulation can't come until the antichrist is revealed.

Since the church is raptured before the beginning of the Tribulation we will not see the antichrist revealed.