

Rev 13: 1–4

The Seven-Headed Beast

144,000

- ▶ Called by God to do a special work at a specific time in history.
- ▶ Serve as God's prophets during the Great Tribulation.
- ▶ Chosen from the new Testament Jews.
- ▶ Few in number compared to the world's population.
- ▶ Called from every tribe, nation, race and religion of the world.
- ▶ Jesus will evangelize the world in 1260 days through the 144,000

Isaiah 33: 5–6

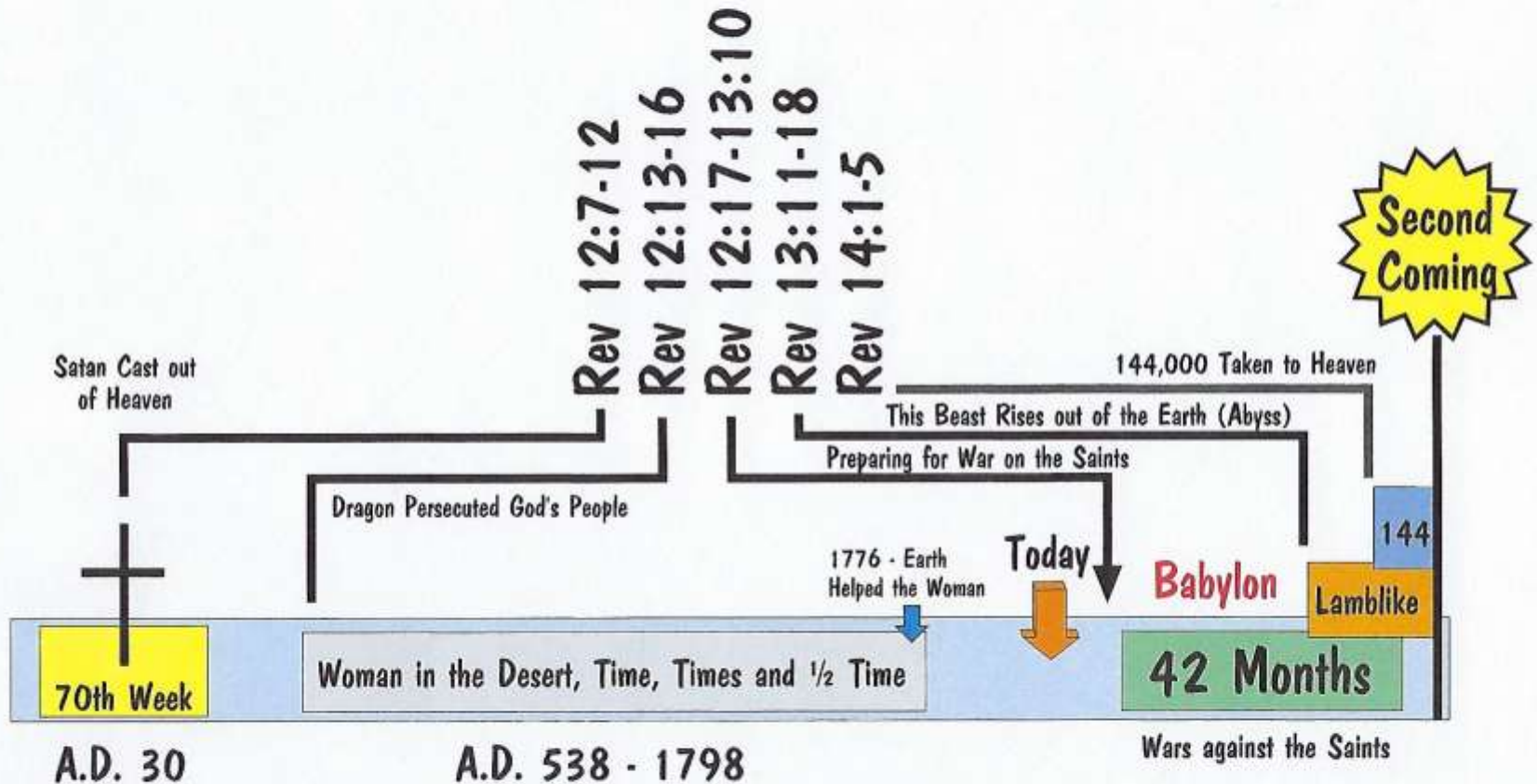
⁵ The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with his justice

and righteousness.

⁶ He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.

Prophecy #11: Rev 12:7-14:5

This prophecy flows in chronological order.



Rev. 13:1

13:1 The dragon^[a] stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

{13:1} I saw the great red dragon standing on the shore of the sea, waiting for the day to arrive when he could once again, make war upon the remnant of the woman. As I watched, I saw a strange beast come up out of the sea. This beast looked similar to the great red dragon because it had the same seven heads and ten horns, but this beast had different body parts. This beast was a composite beast made up of three predators: A leopard, a bear, and a lion.

- ▶ This beast represents a one-world-government that will form during the first four trumpets.
- ▶ The beast will be man's response to God's wrath
- ▶ A crisis of apocalyptic proportion is coming upon the whole world and this crisis has no comparison since Noah's flood.
- ▶ The first four trumpets will turn life on Earth upside down. Every nation will be over-whelmed with shock and awe.
- ▶ Twenty five percent of the world will perish and the ruins of *thousands* of cities will force world leaders to respond to a new reality.
- ▶ Political leaders will be filled with panic.

- ▶ Religious leaders will conclude that given the universal scope of God's anger, the best possible option will be to form one worldwide authority that can dictate to the nations what is "acceptable and unacceptable behavior" in God's sight.
- ▶ Because the world is religiously diverse, solutions will be determined on a nation-by-nation basis.
- ▶ The religious leaders of the world will reason that if sinful behavior caused God's wrath to occur, then corrective behavior should appease God and cause His wrath to cease.

Martial Law

- ▶ The first four trumpets will devastate the infrastructures of all nations and political leaders will be forced to implement martial law
- ▶ Martial law will suspend the freedoms and inalienable rights guaranteed by charters and constitutions.
- ▶ Presidents, Prime Ministers and governors can govern without impediment.
- ▶ Control of chaos.
- ▶ Preserve the government.
- ▶ Political leaders are single-handedly able to surrender their nations to the authority of the crisis government.

- ▶ Through martial law, the beast will be *given* (gifted with) authority over “**every tribe, people, language and nation.**” ([Revelation 13:7](#))
- ▶ Church/state governments are horrible forms of government
- ▶ The environment will become hostile and intolerable, especially for those who love God and His Word.
- ▶ Those who cherish the right to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience have nowhere to go in a religiously dominated state.
- ▶ There is no personal freedom to worship God in a church/state unless your religion is the dictating religion.

Church/State Theocracy


Today

- ▶ Taliban in Afghanistan Where Christianity Is Not Permitted to Exist
- ▶ Illegal to Convert, Illegal to Preach in Iran
- ▶ Bombing in Sri Lanka
- ▶ In North Korea, Christianity is the No. 1 Enemy of the State
- ▶ Christians in Pakistan Live With Open Discrimination and Constant Threat of Mob Attacks
- ▶ Unprecedented Christian Persecution in India
- ▶ <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution>

History

- ▶ When civil power rests in the hands of a few hardline religious or political leaders who are determined to control their subjects' behavior and thoughts, history reveals that dissenters receive deadly consequences.
- ▶ Russian Civil War – 1917–1922 – 9.5 million deaths
- ▶ Nazi Germany – 1935–1945 – 7 million deaths
- ▶ Mao Zedong's regime – 1949–1975 – 45 million deaths

- ▶ The Bible says that Lucifer will give the composite beast its extraordinary power, throne, and great authority. The behavior and power of the composite beast will be stunning.
- ▶ Lucifer will insert his hand into this puppet government so that he can use it to persecute and destroy the remnant of the woman.
- ▶ When it comes to controlling conduct that is offensive to God, *the only tool* which religious and political leaders have is legislation.
- ▶ leaders will reason that God's judgments might end if everyone repents and ceases behavior that offends God. Therefore, the composite beast will create "sin-less" laws which political leaders (wielding martial law) will implement and enforce.

- ▶ The composite beast will gain control of the world without firing a single bullet.
 - ▶ The civil powers of Earth will humbly submit (out of fear for God's wrath) to the demands of the world's religious leaders hoping to end God's judgments.
 - ▶ The book of Revelation calls the composite beast Babylon (which means confusion) because Babylon's laws will create an enormous amount of confusion, hostility, and persecution.
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Revelation 13:1

- ▶ And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.
- ▶ The composite beast had ten horns and seven heads. Each of the seven heads had a blasphemous name written on it and there were ten crowns on the ten horns.

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Explanation

The Seven Religious Systems of the World – The Seven Heads


- ▶ **Atheism** (including agnostics, deists, etc.),
- ▶ **Heathenism** (tribal religions, occult groups such as Wiccan, etc.),
- ▶ **Judaism** (Orthodox, Reformed, etc.),
- ▶ **Islam** (Sunni, Shiite, etc.),
- ▶ **Eastern Mysticism** (Hinduism, Buddhism, etc.),
- ▶ **Catholicism** (Orthodox, Greek, Anglican, etc.) and
- ▶ **Protestantism** (Baptists, Pentecostals, etc.). The Bible considers Atheism to be a religion because it is a faith-based belief system, that is, atheists *believe* there is no God.

The Blasphemous Name

- ▶ The blasphemous name associated with each head indicates that each head (each religious system) is anti-Christ.
- ▶ This means that each religious system is opposed to the sovereign authority and demands of Jesus Christ.
- ▶ The seven religious systems of the world will fiercely oppose the efforts and testimony of the 144,000 and they will also persecute those who embrace and obey the gospel of Jesus.

Seven Crowns on the Seven heads

- ▶ In Revelation 12:3 the seven diadems (crowns of authority) rested on the seven heads, but in this prophecy the diadems rest on the ten horns.
- ▶ This transition means there is a change in persecuting authority.
- ▶ The 1,260 years, in Revelation 12:3 the *religious authorities* persecuted the woman.
- ▶ During the Great Tribulation, *civil authorities* will persecute the remnant of the woman.
- ▶ Babylon will operate as a church state.

- ▶ The seven heads represent the church side of Babylon.
 - ▶ The ten horns represent the state side of Babylon.
 - ▶ When Babylon is created, the composite beast will function as a global church state.
 - ▶ The religious leaders of Babylon will make demands.
 - ▶ The civil authorities in each nation will carry them out.
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Revelation 13:2

- ▶ The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

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- ▶ I noticed that the body of the composite beast resembled a leopard, but it had feet and claws like a bear and a mouth like a lion. I also saw that the source of Babylon's awesome power was Lucifer. The devil gave this government beast its power, its throne, and great authority. The power within this puppet beast was "super-natural."

Explanation

Composite Beast

- ▶ This beast from the sea is called a 'composite beast' because it has features borrowed from three awesome predators.
- ▶ The composite beast will be swift like a leopard, ferocious like a bear and deadly like a lion.
- ▶ Lucifer is crouched like a lion, waiting to pounce on the remnant of the woman with the ferocity of a grizzly bear and no one can outrun a leopard.

Revelation 13:3

- ▶ One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.

- ▶ One of the seven heads seemed to have had a fatal wound, but when the composite beast rose from the sea, the fatal wound *had been healed* (notice the past-perfect tense). Because the first four trumpets had destroyed much of the world and its population, the survivors sought to appease God's wrath by following the instructions of the composite beast.

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Explanation

- ▶ The religious leaders of the world will unite in an effort to appease God's wrath.
- ▶ They will create a global authority (Babylon) that will be responsible for "helping" the nations of the world appease God.
- ▶ World leaders will select the pope to oversee this authority.
- ▶ The Catholic Church has an existing network already established among the nations, so the pope will be the obvious choice to lead Babylon, but he will not serve alone.
- ▶ The pope will not serve as a great king ruling over a united kingdom; instead, he will be "*primus inter pares*," a Latin phrase meaning "first among equals."

Powers of the Pope

- ▶ Several Catholic scholars anticipate a day is coming when a pope will lead the world in a unified religious reformation!
- ▶ Dr. Martin wrote “A physical chastisement of the nations, involving catastrophes, man-made or natural, on land, on water and in the atmosphere of the globe [is coming upon the world]”
- ▶ Dr. Martin continues “He [Pope John Paul II] is waiting, rather, for an event that will fission human history, splitting the immediate past from the oncoming future. It will be an event on public view in the skies, in the oceans, and on the continental landmasses of this planet.
- ▶ Dr. Martin’s expectations have not been fulfilledhis anticipation of a “fissioning event” is not as far out as one might think.
- ▶ Revelation 8 describes four horrific judgments that will occur.
- ▶ Revelation 13 describes the rise of a seven-headed beast designed by the religious leaders of the world to appease God’s wrath.

Fatal Wound Inflicted

- ▶ For 1,260 years (from emperor Justinian to Napoleon – A.D. 538–1798), Europe's political leaders were subservient to the clergy of the Catholic Church.
- ▶ For over 1,000 years, the pope and clergy of the Catholic Church crowned the kings and queens of Europe.
- ▶ The Church wielded enormous influence over Europe.
- ▶ The Catholic Church received a deadly wound in 1798 when Napoleon refused to recognize the pope's civil (political) powers and the pope refused to give them up. Napoleon's forces confiscated the Vatican in February 1798, arrested Pope Pius VI, and sent him to France where he died six weeks later.
- ▶ When Napoleon captured the Vatican and exiled the pope, the papacy's church/state powers over Europe and elsewhere quickly waned

Fatal Wound Healed

- ▶ Since 1929, the Catholic Church has risen to global prominence. Its recovery began when Mussolini restored Vatican City to the Church.
- ▶ The Catholic Church claims more than 1.5 billion members.
- ▶ The popes often meet with heads of state around the world.
- ▶ No other religious system on Earth is globally organized and politically recognized like the Catholic Church.
- ▶ The fatal wound is healing but it will not be completely healed until the composite beast arises from the sea.

Revelation 13:4

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- ▶ People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”

Explanation

- ▶ People worshiped the devil when they obeyed the laws of Babylon without realizing at first, that they were actually worshiping the devil. Out of fear for God, most people cooperated with the demands of Babylon, the composite beast. No one wanted to do anything that might further offend Almighty God.

Devil's Laws

- ▶ A person worships the devil when he *knowingly* obeys a law that has a requirement contrary to the law of God.
- ▶ The composite beast (Babylon) will create many laws regarding worship and moral laws.
- ▶ *Any law regarding worship that stands in conflict with the Ten Commandments, including the fourth commandment, is blasphemy.*
- ▶ The 144,000 will faithfully and clearly present God's demand that everyone rest from their work on the Creator's seventh day Sabbath.

Role of the 144,000

- ▶ The 144,000 will inform the world that Babylon's laws are blasphemous in God's sight.
- ▶ The testimony of the 144,000 will inflame and insult the arrogance of Babylon's leaders.
- ▶ Babylon's leaders will become furious when the 144,000 explain that Babylon is merely a hand puppet of Lucifer that is designed to destroy the remnant of the woman, those who love Jesus and keep His commandments.
- ▶ Many wicked people will attempt to harm and kill the 144,000, but they cannot be silenced until they have completed their work.

Remnant of God

- ▶ The Bible identifies the remnant of the woman as those who obey the commandments of God.
- ▶ This distinction is not now apparent, but this will change when the remnant defy the commandments of men.
- ▶ Worshiping God as He commands will produce a great deal of conflict, persecution and suffering for God's people.