

Revelation 13 • The Beasts

Introduction (12:13-17) When Satan and those who follow him into rebellion are cast out of heaven to the earth, **deception** and **persecution** are magnified to a level never before experienced by mankind, particularly God's **people**.

The First Beast

- (v.1) The first beast comes in the character of **Satan**, both described as having seven heads and ten horns. The kingdom of **Antichrist** mimics this shared feature.

Observation: Note the following scriptural parallels for the beast and dragon:

Daniel 7:7-8	Rev. 12:3	Rev. 13:1
<i>"...a fourth beast...and it had ten horns...and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots..."</i>	<i>"...a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his head were seven diadems."</i>	<i>"...a beast...having ten horns and seven heads and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names."</i>

- (v.2) This is the fulfillment of what was initially provided in the book of **Daniel**, the final dreadful kingdom of the **Antichrist**.
- (v.3-4) This first beast may operate mainly in the **political** realm, but it is only to achieve the ultimate, spiritual result of being **worshiped**.
- (v.5-6) Side-by-side with Satan's **authority** conveyed to Antichrist is a message of open **blasphemy** against God.

- (v.7-8) The spiritual corollary to "you are what you **eat**" is "you are what you **worship**".
- (v.9-10) When the Rapture takes place, all the **nominal** Christians will have been purged from the ranks and all that will remain are the **faithful**.

The Second Beast

- (v.11-13) The primary purpose of the second beast—the False Prophet, is to **deify** and engender **worship** of the Antichrist, the first beast.
- (v.14) The second beast imitates the **signs** of the Two Witnesses in the course of overseeing the establishment of an image of the beast upon which to focus **worship**. It is the ultimate and complete implementation of establishing a **false god** in place of the One True God.
- (v.15) The second beast counterfeits Christ as **Creator** with a living image of the beast upon which to focus **worship** of Antichrist.
- (v.16-17) The second beast employs **financial** control to force **worship** of Antichrist.

The Mark

- (v.18) When appropriate within the greater scheme of God's timing, there will come a time when the **identity** of the Antichrist will be plainly understood by the **faithful** in Christ.