

“All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If anyone has an ear, let him hear.” – Revelation 13:8-9

Overview:

This is the fourth scene in the visions that were given to John. At this point in Rev 12-13 we have seen:

- 1) Rev 12:1-2 – The woman and the Child
- 2) Rev 12:3-6 – The dragon in heaven, the woman and Child
- 3) Rev 12:7-9 – Michael and the Dragon at war
- 4) Rev 12:10-12 – An interlude of praise in heaven because the dragon has been cast down from heaven
- 5) Rev 12:13-17 – Dragon now makes war against the offspring of the woman in rage

The church has been raptured (2 Thessalonians 2:7), and is in heaven during this time period of earth's history. John sees the Antichrist which is shown as a beast rising up out of the sea with seven heads and ten horns with ten crowns. The beast has a blasphemous name on his head and spends much of his time blaspheming God and making war with the saints.

In this section, we see many counterfeits of Jesus by the Antichrist, he has been mortally wounded which makes people believe he was resurrected from the dead. He receives worship from the people and they ask, “Who is like the beast?” He is given authority over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

It is comforting to notice that the Antichrist has no real power of his own. In Rev 13:2 we read that the dragon, which is Satan, gives him his power, throne, and great authority. In verse 5, he is given a mouth to speak great and blasphemies and authority to continue for forty-two months. And in Rev 13:7 we read that it was granted to him to make war with the saints and have authority over every tribe, tongue, and nation. But the beast will not have any authority over those whose names are written in the Book of Life of the Lamb.

References:

Rev 13:1 – Beast out of the sea – Isaiah 17:12

Daniel 7:1-6 – The entire career of the Antichrist pictured. Rev 13-19 gives same view of Antichrist's career

* Lion – Babylon (Dan 7:4), Nebuchadnezzar – Daniel 4:23, 28-36

* Bear – Medo-Persian, three ribs – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon

* Leopard – Greco-Macedonian – Alexander the Great

Rev 13:2 – But different: Daniel 7:7-8

Rev 13:4 – Satan's great desire is for worship – Isaiah 14:14

Rev 13:4 – Who is like the beast? - Counterfeit – Psalm 113:5

Rev 13:5 – Speaking great things and blasphemies – Daniel 7:8; 2 Thessalonians 2:4a

Rev 13:5 – Given authority to continue for forty-two months – Rev 6:1; Daniel 9:27a, 7:25a

Rev 13:6 – Opened his mouth in blasphemy – Daniel 9:27b; 2 Thessalonians 2:4b; Matthew 24:15; Daniel 7:25b

Rev 13:7 – Goes back to how the dragon makes war – Rev 12:17

Rev 13:7 – All authority – counterfeit – Rev 5:9; Daniel 7:14

Rev 13:10 – End of the account – Daniel 7:9-14

* Dan 7:10 – A fiery stream – Psalm 97:1-6

* Dan 7:11 – Rev 19:20

* Daniel 7:26-28a

* What side are you on? - Psalm 90:12

Questions:

* Where does this beast get his authority from? Is his authority limited or unlimited in scope?

* What does Rev 13:8 teach us about our salvation? Take a few minutes and give God praise for your salvation.

Additional Study:

Rev 13:2

- * The dragon gave him:
 - His power (*dunamis*)
 - His throne (*thronos*)
 - Great authority (*exousian megalen*) – great authority to rule

Rev 13:3

* all the world marveled (*thaumazo*) – to be amazed

Rev 13:5

* speaking pompous words Aramaic (*rebaran*) – great things

Rev 13:8

* All who dwell on the earth (*katoikeō*) – to dwell, inhabit