

Revelation Chapter by Chapter Outline:

Ch. 1- Vision of Jesus Christ.

Chs. 2 & 3- The future of the Church (Now the history of the Church).

Chs. 4 & 5- Church raptured—the heavenly scene.

Chs. 6 – 19- The Great Tribulation Period (Seven years of God’s Judgment).

Chs. 20-22- 1000-year reign of Christ on earth, then new heavens, new earth, new Jerusalem

The REVELATION of JESUS CHRIST

Revelation Chapter 13

“The Beast, the False Prophet & 666!”

Intro: During the “Great Tribulation” (the 70th week of Daniel, the “day of Jacob’s trouble” (Jer 30:7 - *Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.*) an unholy trinity will be established: Satan; the Antichrist and the False Prophet. This will be a masterful counterfeit of God, the Son of God and the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately the world will desire the deception, because they would “*not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness*” (2 Thess. 2:12). Wiersbe writes, “You will remember that Antichrist began his career as a peacemaker (Rev 6:2) and even “settled” the Arab-Israeli problem by making a covenant with the Jews to protect them for seven years (Dan 9:27). This protection would permit the nation to rebuild the temple and reinstitute religious rituals (Dan 9:27; Rev 11:1). But in the middle of the seven year period (the time we are studying now in Rev 10-14) he will break that covenant, stop the ceremonies, and set up himself as god in the temple (Dan 9:27; 2 Thess 2:1-12).”

> THREE DECEPTIONS:

#1 – THE BEAST—ANTICHRIST (v1-10)

(v1) The “*sea*” represents the sea of humanity; “the beast” represents the Antichrist; the “seven heads” represent the all former empires combined into the one beast, that Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and a Revived-Roman Empire including the ten federations of the world (ten horns with ten crowns).

(v2) The BEAST was like a LEOPARD representing Grecian Empire (swift in destroying); his feet like a BEAR representing the Medo-Persia Empire (with great power); and a mouth of a LION resembling the Babylonian Empire (pompous and courageous). The DRAGON is SATAN who gives the BEAST “*power, his throne, and great authority.*” Let’s compare Daniel’s vision **Daniel 7:1-7**.

(v3) Many Bible scholars believe this to be a counterfeit death and resurrection of the Antichrist; others feel it could be representing the revived Roman Empire ruling the world. (Remember **2 Thessalonians 2:1-12**)

(v4) Notice the world will “*worship the dragon*”, that is, Satan. We already see this in music, entertainment, religious systems, and politics. (The devil wanted Jesus to worship him in Matthew 4:8-10 - *Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"*)

(v5-7) **The BEAST blasphemes God, His name, His tabernacle and those who dwell in heaven.** (Blasphemy - The act of cursing, slandering, reviling or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God. In the Old Testament, blaspheming God was a serious crime punishable by death (Lev 24:15-16). It was a violation of the Third Commandment, which required that the name and reputation of the Lord be upheld (Ex 20:7). In the sense of speaking evil of God this word is found in Ps 74:18; Isa 52:5; Rom 2:24; Rev 13:1,6; 16:9,11,21. It denotes also any kind of calumny, or evil-speaking, or abuse (1 Kings 21:10; Acts 13:45; 18:6, etc.). Our Lord was accused of blasphemy when he claimed to be the Son of God (Matt 26:65; comp. Matt 9:3; Mark 2:7). They who deny his Messiahship blaspheme Jesus (Luke 22:65; John 10:36). (from Nelson’s and Easton’s Bible Dictionaries)) This goes on for **forty-two months** the last half of the “Tribulation”; Daniel spoke of this in Daniel 9:27 - *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he (the Antichrist) shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. and on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.*” (Our Lord Jesus speaks of this time period in **Matthew 24:15-22**.)

(v8-10) **How to have your name written in the BOOK OF LIFE - 1 John 5:4-5** - *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? Rev 3:5* - *He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.* (What happens to those whose names are not found in the book of life? Rev. 20:11-15.)

#2 – THE FALSE PROPHET (v11-15)

This second beast is like a LAMB but speaks like a DRAGON, this is the FALSE PROPHET!

Compare Rev 19:20-21 - *Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.* There will be a great worldwide deception! We are warned of religious deceivers in 2 Corinthians ch. 11; Jesus said in Matthew 24:4 – *“Take heed that no deceives you.”*

Bible commentator John Philips writes, “The dynamic appeal of the false prophet will lie in his skill in combining political expediency with religious passion. . . . His arguments will be subtle, convincing, and appealing. His oratory will be hypnotic, for he will be able to move the masses to tears or whip them into a frenzy. He will control the communication media of the world and will skillfully organize mass publicity to promote his ends. He will manage the truth with guile beyond words, bending it twisting it, and distorting it.”

#3 – THE MARK OF THE BEAST—666! (v16-18)

What happens to those who take the “mark of the beast”? Revelation 14:9-13

> Be watchful, faithful and ready! – Matthew 25:1-13